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## What's the deal? Analysis: Trump's erratic negotiating style being tested in shutdown standoff Page 6

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A pedestrian climbs back over a fence leading to Theodore Roosevelt Island in Arlington, Va., on Sunday. The park is closed due to the partial government shutdown.

MATT MCCLAIN/The Washington Post



## Navy may have detected signals from tanker, jet missing after midair collision

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Navy appears to have detected "pingers" from a KC-130J tanker and F/A-18D Hornet involved in a deadly midair collision last month off Japan's southern coast, according to III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The aircraft out of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni crashed into the Philippine Sea on Dec. 6 during nighttime training about 200 miles south of Muroto Cape on Shikoku Island.

Five crewmembers from the tanker and the pilot of the jet were killed. The Hornet's weapons officer, who has not been identified, was the sole survivor.

A search by U.S. and Japanese forces for the lost aviators that spanned 35,000 square nautical miles was called off Dec. 11.

However, the Okinawa-based III MEF said in a statement Monday that signals detected in late December are thought to mark the location of the aircraft.

"A team of deep water salvage experts led by United States Navy's Supervisor of Salvage and Diving ... deployed from Yokosuka

and arrived on scene Dec 18," the statement said. "There, the highly skilled operators searched for the aircrafts' emergency location pingers with a U.S. Navy-owned towed pinger locator (TPL-25) system."

Signals were detected Dec. 19 and by Dec. 21 the team was able to confirm three distinct pingers at a depth of approximately 9,843 feet, III MEF said in the statement.

Two of the pingers are thought to mark the location of the KC-130 and the third is associated with the F/A-18, the statement said.

"Pending the next phase of recovery,

salvage and reclamation efforts, we cannot with full confidence state that the aircraft themselves have been found," the III MEF statement said. "We remain hopeful that the location of the flight data recording device coincides with the location of the aircraft."

Future salvage efforts will be weighed by an overall risk assessment encompassing weather, sea state, water depth, underwater currents and seabed environment, the statement said.

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PACIFIC

# US, N. Korea negotiating next summit venue

**By Kim Gamel**  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States is “negotiating a location” for a second summit with North Korea, President Donald Trump said, as a newspaper reported that the Vietnamese capital is a leading candidate.

Trump’s comments came nearly a week after Kim Jong Un said in his New Year’s speech that he was ready to meet with the president at any time but warned the United States against pushing ahead with economic sanctions.

The U.S. administration insists on maintaining the punishing measures aimed at forcing the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

But Pyongyang seeks a reciprocal approach, with rewards including eased sanctions for steps already taken.

The president told reporters outside the White House on Sunday that his administration is “doing very well” with North Korea, citing the lack of missile tests as progress.

“When I came here, this country was headed to war with North Korea and now we have a very good dialogue going,” Trump said in the televised remarks.

“You would right now be in a nice, big fat war in Asia with North Korea if I wasn’t elected president,” he said, adding that he has “indirectly spoken to Chairman Kim.”

Trump refused to elaborate but said last week that he had received

a “great letter” from Kim.

A surge in diplomacy that began last year has eased tensions after a series of missile and nuclear tests and threats of war by Trump and Kim.

Trump, who first met with Kim in an unprecedented U.S.-North Korea summit on June 12 in Singapore, has said previously that he hoped to hold another meeting early this year. His remarks on Sunday went a step further by suggesting that logistics are being discussed.

“We’re negotiating a location. It will be announced probably in the not-too-distant future,” he said before leaving for Camp David in Maryland.

“But the sanctions remain in full force and effect and they will

until we have some real, positive proof.”

The potential for another summit has prompted a guessing game over possible venues.

State Department officials discussed summit planning with North Korean counterparts during recent meetings in Hanoi, fueling speculation that the city could host the event, a South Korean newspaper reported Monday.

Munhwa Ilbo cited unnamed diplomatic sources in Seoul and Washington. It noted that Vietnam has diplomatic relations with both sides and has the symbolic value of being a communist country that has reformed its economy.

The report could not be independently confirmed. A similar guessing game erupted in the media ahead of the first summit earlier this year.

Trump and Kim reached a vague agreement to work toward the “complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula,” during their meeting in Singapore. But talks have since stalled over disagreements about what that means.

During his New Year’s speech, the North Korean leader said he hopes to meet again with Trump but warned the U.S. not to test his country’s patience with sanctions.

He also said it should not resume joint military exercises with South Korea.

*Stars and Stripes correspondent Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.*  
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## Reports: N. Korea’s Kim may be on way to China for summit

*Associated Press*

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean media reported late Monday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un may be on his way to Beijing for his fourth summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Officials in China and in Seoul had no immediate comment. North Korea rarely reports such visits until they are over.

The reports said a train like the one often used by Kim was seen crossing through the Chinese border city of Dandong late Monday amid heavy security.

South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency speculated the train could be carrying a high-ranking North Korean official, while the Hankyoreh newspaper cited sources as

saying Kim was in China for a summit.

Yonhap said the train was expected to reach Beijing about 10 a.m. Tuesday local time.

Kim used a very distinctive armored train made especially for him on visits to China last year.

Reports of the North Korean leader’s possible trip to China came after U.S. and North Korean officials are believed to have met in Vietnam to discuss the location of a second summit between Kim and President Donald Trump.

Tuesday is also Kim Jong Un’s birthday.

If he is going to meet Xi, Kim could be hoping to coordinate his positions with China before the Trump summit.



Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, shakes hands with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in June. South Korean media reported Kim may be on his way to Beijing for another summit with the Chinese leader.

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RELOCATION GUIDE

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## MILITARY

## Kadena airman reported sent to US for treatment

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI  
Stars and Stripes

**CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa** — The Okinawa-based airman arrested last month for allegedly failing to report for duty and having a weapon in his possession has been sent back to the United States for mental health treatment, a Japanese official said.

Air Force security arrested the unidentified airman, assigned to the 353rd Special Operations Group at Kadena Air Base, around 5:45 p.m. Dec. 6 in the Uza neighborhood of Yomitan Village.

On the advice of "many mental health experts," the airman has been returned to the U.S. for treatment "that he could not receive while stationed on the island," Okinawa Defense Bureau spokesman Masashi Katsuren told Stars and Stripes on Monday.

U.S. authorities had alerted Okinawa prefectural police in Naha and Okinawa City that the

airman had failed to report for duty and may have had a handgun with him, the Okinawa Times newspaper reported at the time.

The airman — who was "responsible for checking out weapons in the course of his duties," according to an 18th Wing Security Forces' statement — was found with a Beretta M9 pistol loaded with 15 rounds in his vehicle, the Okinawa Times reported.

Officials from Kadena's 18th Wing notified the bureau Dec. 20 that the airman was not in stable enough condition to comply with either the Japanese police or the U.S. security police investigation, Katsuren said, citing the 18th Wing.

No one was injured in the incident. Air Force officials said an investigation will follow.

The 18th Wing did not respond to requests seeking comment by press time Monday.

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## Airman's trial for stabbing on Guam set to begin

**SHREVEPORT, La.** — The Air Force says a court-martial is scheduled Monday for a Louisiana-based airman accused of stabbing his roommate to death in their quarters at an Air Force base on Guam.

Airman 1st Class Isaiah Edwards is charged with killing Airman 1st Class Bradley Hale, 20, on March 26 at Andersen Air Force Base.

An Air Force panel will hear

the case in a federal courtroom in Shreveport.

Hale's father, Rodney Hale, told The Times of Shreveport in May that they airman were assigned as roommates, rather than choosing to room together.

Bradley Hale was found with three cuts to his neck. He was from Montgomery County, Texas, and had joined the Air Force in 2016.

## Ceremony to commission Navy's newest submarine

**GROTON, Conn.** — A ceremony to commission the Navy's newest attack submarine has been scheduled for next month at the submarine base in Groton.

The USS South Dakota will be commissioned at the Navy base on Feb. 2 as the 17th Virginia-class submarine to join the fleet.

The submarine is set to cost \$2.7 billion each and are built in partnership by Newport News Ship-

building and General Dynamics' Electric Boat. The vessel's sponsor is Debbie Dempsey, the wife of retired Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, who served as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

It will be the third U.S. Navy ship and the first submarine to be commissioned with the name South Dakota.

From The Associated Press



Nick Scott/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Marine Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser, left, commander of U.S. Africa Command, speaks with U.S. Ambassador to Somalia Donald Yamamoto at the Mogadishu airport on Nov. 27.

## Pentagon denies reports of drawdown in Somalia

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

**STUTTGART, Germany** — The Pentagon on Monday denied reports of a looming drawdown in Somalia, saying there is no plan to cut back the mission in a country where U.S. Africa Command continues to carry out airstrikes.

"There have been no recent policy changes regarding U.S. operations in Somalia," Pentagon spokeswoman Cmdr. Candice Tresch said in a statement. "We continue to support the Federal Government of Somalia's efforts to degrade al-Shabab."

The denial comes after NBC reported Friday that planning is underway to pull back in Somalia, where U.S. special operations troops have been a steady presence for several years. The U.S. also conducts regular airstrikes against the militant group al-Shabab.

The network reported that the Pentagon wants to curtail airstrikes and hand the mission off to the CIA. "I would say we're running out of targets," an unnamed U.S. defense official told NBC.

The Pentagon says it has about 500 military personnel in Somalia, where AFRICOM conducted 47 airstrikes in 2018 and 35 the year before.

AFRICOM launched its first airstrike of 2019 in Somalia on Wednesday.

Citing unnamed defense officials, NBC said it was unclear how many troops would remain in the country if the plan goes into effect. The reported shift away from Somalia is at odds with a recent Pentagon announcement that it will cut back 10 percent of its force in Africa but leave largely intact its mission in Somalia.

The U.S. also recently established a permanent diplomatic

presence in the country.

Overall, U.S. counterterrorism policy is in a state of flux. In addition to plans to reduce some missions in Africa, the Trump administration reportedly has plans to cut 7,000 troops in Afghanistan and downsize significantly in Syria.

Last month, President Donald Trump's announcement that he would immediately pull all forces out of Syria prompted the resignation of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

On Sunday, national security adviser John Bolton told reporters in an apparent policy reversal that there was no rush out of Syria. Elimination of all ISIS militants and a promise from Turkey not to harm Kurdish partners were preconditions for any American withdrawal, Bolton said.

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## Japanese air force plans to decommission its only tactical reconnaissance squadron

By HANA KUSUMOTO  
Stars and Stripes

**TOKYO** — The Japan Air Self-Defense Force will retire its aging RF-4E Phantom II reconnaissance jets and decommission the unit that flies them by March 2020, a JASDF spokesman said Monday.

The Defense Ministry is planning to replace the Tactical Reconnaissance Group's 40-year-old RF-4Es with state-of-the-art F-35A and F-35B Lightning IIs, the spokesman said on a customary condition of anonymity.

The Tactical Reconnaissance

Group, formed in 1961, is headquartered at Hyakuri Air Base in Ibaraki prefecture.

It's the only squadron of its kind in the JASDF, according to the Ministry of Defense website.

The unarmed RF-4E can survey and photograph in all weather and at night using short-distance, long-distance, infrared and panoramic cameras, according to Yomiuri Shimbun.

JASDF introduced the first RF-4Es in 1974 and now has 13 in operation, the newspaper reported.

The reconnaissance group flies defense missions around Japan

but also conducts damage surveys following natural disasters. The RF-4Es were used to survey the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant after the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan, according to the Defense Ministry.

It also helped identify homes affected by landslides after the Hokkaido earthquake in September, according to Yomiuri Shimbun.

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YASUO OSAKABE/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A U.S. airman guides a Japan Air Self-Defense Force RF-4E Phantom II at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Sept. 16, 2016. Japan plans to retire the jets and decommission the unit that flies them.



## WAR/MILITARY

# Trump denies changes to Syria exit plan

By MISSY RYAN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday pushed back against media reports that he had altered the timeline for removing U.S. troops from Syria, denying his administration had issued a series of contradictory statements about plans for ending America's role in the war.

"We will be leaving at a proper pace while at the same time continuing to fight ISIS and doing all else that is prudent and necessary!" the president said in a message on Twitter referring to the Pentagon's ongoing operation to defeat Islamic State.

His comment, which differed from earlier promises of a swift departure for the more than 2,000 U.S. troops stationed in

**"We will be leaving at a proper pace while at the same time continuing to fight ISIS and doing all else that is prudent and necessary!"**

**President Donald Trump**  
on Twitter

Syria, was the latest iteration of an evolving road map for concluding the military mission there.

Trump's statement came a day after national security adviser John Bolton, speaking to reporters during a tour of the Middle East, said the troop departure would occur only after ISIS militants are fully routed.

Both his comments and Trump's conflict with officials' initial statements following the president's unexpected Dec. 19 announce-

ment that all troops would come home in short order, Trump also declared victory against ISIS, contradicting military assessments.

"Our boys, our young women, our men, they're all coming back and they're coming back now. We won," Trump said in a video message on Twitter.

That abrupt pronouncement upended plans for a continued presence in Syria, where U.S. troops work with Syrian Kurdish forces battling militants in the eastern part of the country.

The unexpected move shocked allies, and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis resigned after clashing with Trump over the plans.

While officials said Trump had initially ordered a 30-day departure, the White House later agreed to an exit within 120 days, which would permit troops more time to break down bases and safely remove equipment and personnel.

In recent days, White House and State Department officials have appeared to back away from plans for an immediate departure

and from assertions that the battle against the militants was over.

Instead, they have suggested the drawdown would be conditioned on the conclusion of fighting with ISIS and on a promise from Turkey, a NATO ally, that it would not attack Syrian partner forces, which Ankara views as an offshoot of a terrorist group.

But Trump, commenting on Twitter on Monday, denied any change had occurred.

"The Failing New York Times has knowingly written a very inaccurate story on my intentions on Syria," Trump said, referring to stories from numerous publications, including The New York Times and The Washington Post, which noticed the shifting plans. "No different from my original statements," he said.

## Bolton arrives in Turkey for negotiations on fate of Kurds

By ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — U.S. national security adviser John Bolton is set to press Turkey for assurances that it won't attack the Kurdish fighters in Syria — which he said is now a condition for the withdrawal of American troops from northeastern Syria. Bolton arrived Monday for negotiations with the NATO ally about the safety of the Kurds, who have fought alongside American forces against Islamic State in Syria and fear a military assault from Turkey should the U.S. pull out.

His visit comes a day after Bolton said guarantees about the safety of the Kurds were a "condition" for the withdrawal of about 2,000 troops in the region that President Donald Trump ordered last month.

The talks are likely to be contentious, as Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG, a terrorist group linked to an insurgency within its borders and has threatened to mount a campaign against the groups. Bolton, who is expected to meet Tuesday with Turkish officials including President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said the U.S. would oppose any such move against its allies in the fight against ISIS.

"We don't think the Turks ought to undertake military action that's not fully coordinated with and agreed to by the United States," Bolton said Sunday. Trump has made clear that he would not allow Turkey to kill the Kurds. Bolton added, "That's what the president said, the ones that fought with us."

Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar lashed out at Bolton on Monday, saying on Twitter that Turkey's fight isn't against Kurds but against Kurdish rebels and ISIS militants who pose a threat to all ethnic groups.

Turkey's fight is against YPG, PKK and IS (Islamic State) terrorists who are a threat against our Kurdish, Arab, Turkmen brothers and all ethnic and religious groups," he said. PKK is the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party.

Turkey's presidential spokesman, with whom Bolton will meet Tuesday, called allegations that his country planned to attack the U.S.-allied Kurds in Syria "irrational" and said Turkey was fighting terrorism for

national security.

"That a terror organization cannot be allied with the U.S. is self-evident," Ibrahim Kalin said Sunday in comments carried by the official Anadolu news agency.

Bolton had said the protection of U.S. allies in Syria, including the YPG, was among "the objectives that we want to accomplish that condition the withdrawal" of U.S. forces.

Those comments marked the first public confirmation that the drawdown has been slowed since Trump's announcement in mid-December.

Trump had faced widespread criticism from allies about his decision, including that he was abandoning the Kurds in the face of Turkish threats. Officials said

at the time that although many details of the withdrawal had not yet been finalized, they expected American forces to be out by mid-January.

At the time, Trump had also said Turkey would step up the fight against the remnants of ISIS in Syria, but Bolton said Sunday U.S. troops will eliminate what remains of ISIS before leaving northeastern Syria.

Bolton maintained there is no fixed timetable for completing the drawdown, but insisted it was not an indefinite commitment to the region. Still, some 200 U.S. troops will remain in the vicinity of al-Tanf, in southern Syria, to counter growing Iranian activity in the region, he said.

In meetings with Turkish officials Tuesday, Bolton said, he will seek "to find out what their objectives and capabilities are, and that remains uncertain."

He will be joined by Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford — who will remain in Turkey for additional meetings with Turkish military officials pressing for protection for the Kurds — as well as Jim Jeffrey, the special representative for Syrian engagement and the newly named American special envoy for the anti-ISIS coalition. Jeffrey will travel from Turkey into Syria to reassure the Kurdish fighters that they are not being abandoned, Bolton said.



HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

A U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces soldier, left, speaks with a U.S. soldier at a U.S. position near the tense front line with Turkish-backed fighters in Manbij, northern Syria, last April.

## Syria's Kurds await clarification regarding US plan to withdraw

By BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syria's Kurds are awaiting clarification from the U.S. over America's plans to pull out its troops from Syria following comments made by a top White House aide that appeared to counter earlier comments by President Donald Trump, a Syrian Kurdish official said Monday.

Speaking to The Associated Press from northern Syria on Monday, Badran Ciya Kurd said the Kurds have not been informed of any change in the U.S. position and were in the dark about the latest comments by U.S. national security adviser John Bolton and what they indicated.

"We have not been formally or directly notified. All what we heard were media statements," he said.

Bolton, on a visit to Israel on Sunday, said U.S. troops will not leave northeastern Syria until Islamic State militants are defeated and American-allied Kurdish fighters are protected.

Ciya Kurd said Bolton, through his comments, acknowledged that Turkey was killing the Kurds and that he wants guarantees that would not happen.

Turkey constitutes a bigger threat to Kurdish existence than Daesh and all international terrorist organizations," he said,

using the Arabic acronym for ISIS.

Nawaf Khali, who heads the European-based Center for Kurdish Studies, said that "President Trump's statement regarding withdrawal of troops led to confusion and mistrust of the American side." He added that Bolton's statement "came to fix what should not have been said."

Shahoz Hasan, the co-chair of the Kurdish Democratic Union Party, the largest and most powerful in northern Syria, told the AP that he would not comment until U.S. officials conclude their meetings in Turkey.

Meanwhile, in northern Syria, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces pressed on in their fight against ISIS in their last holdouts in eastern Syria. Civilians on Monday continued to flee the area around the town of Hajin, near the border with Iraq.

In a sign of the lingering threat still posed by the extremist group, ISIS militants staged an attack in the northern city of Raqa, killing a civilian and wounding several SDF fighters.

The SDF said in a statement that during Monday's attack, an ISIS fighter blew himself up near an SDF checkpoint.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, said the suicide attacker killed five people, including four civilians, and wounded eight.



## MILITARY

# Brass bell from USS Merrimack kept in Virginia

By KATHERINE HAFNER

The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — The brass bell — most of it, anyway — has survived the Battle of Hampton Roads, a Portsmouth church fire and the melting pot of a Baltimore foundry.

Now it's tucked away in a Civil War exhibit at the Hampton Roads Naval Museum.

The bell from the USS Merrimack-turned-CSS Virginia sits behind plexiglass under a "Battle of Hampton Roads" sign, next to a cannonball from the same ship.

In September, The Virginian-Pilot published a Back in the Day feature that mentioned a brass bell from the Merrimack given to the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences in 1953. That led a reader to pose the question, through the newspaper's Glad You Asked initiative: Where is the bell now?

Turns out it endured quite a lot before it ever made it to a curator's custody.

"This particular one is a little bit mysterious," said Joseph Judge, deputy director at the naval museum.

The Union's Merrimack, a first-in-class steam frigate, was built at Boston's Charlestown shipyard and launched in 1855. Six years later it was at Gosport Navy Yard in Portsmouth — what's now Norfolk Naval Shipyard — for repairs when the Confederacy approached.

In April 1861 the shipyard, along with the Merrimack and 10 other ships, was burned to avoid capture, according to Pilot archives. Virginia seceded from the Union five days later.

The Merrimack remained underwater for about a month before the Confederates salvaged its hull to build the ironclad CSS

Virginia, Judge said.

The Virginia fought in the famed Battle of Hampton Roads before it was scuttled by its crew near Craney Island, he said.

The bell would be found among the wreckage about a decade later, according to "Ironclad Down" by Carl D. Park.

"Although a ship's bell has no bearing on the construction of the ship, the story of the Virginia's bell is worth telling," Park wrote in the 2007 book.

Around 1875, a diver had a government contract to blow up parts of the wreck and salvage what could be saved.

He recovered the bell from the Elizabeth River and gave it to St. Paul's Catholic Church in Portsmouth, according to historical accounts, where it hung in the belfry until 1907. That year, a devastating fire swept through the church and broke the ironclad's bell vertically in half. The remains, along with other scrap metal from the fire, were sent to Baltimore to be recast into a new church bell, Park wrote.

But a Hampton Roads woman, "believing that the damaged Virginia bell was an important part of Southern history that should be preserved," went to the foundry and retrieved it before it was tossed into a melting pot, he wrote. It went to her brother-in-law upon her death, and subsequently to his daughter.

The daughter, W.E. Darden, later told the Pilot that her father



PHOTOS BY BILL TIERNAN, THE (NORFOLK, VA.) VIRGINIAN-PILOT/AP

The ship's bell of the CSS Virginia can be found on display at the Hampton Roads Naval Museum in Norfolk, Va.



Joseph Judge, deputy director of the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, checks information about the CSS Virginia.

"loved the bell and would take it on the porch every New Year's Eve and use it to ring out the old year and ring in the new."

He'd had many offers to buy it,

including from the Sons of Confederate Veterans, but refused to sell, according to the 1953 newspaper article.

"It was exhibited in a store win-

dow in downtown Norfolk once when the Virginia Confederate Veterans reunion was held here and was on display on several other occasions," according to the article.

In 1953, Darden donated the bell to what was then the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences and became the Chrysler Museum, which still owns the bell. It's been on long-term loan with the naval museum since the 1980s, according to the Chrysler.

The ship bell is one of several museum has on display, Judge said, though it's fairly rare to have one from the Civil War era.

"Bells are very emotional artifacts to the Navy," he said. "Symbolically, they're very rich in meaning."

"We're preserving the heart of a ship," added Max Lonzanida, spokesman for the museum.

The bell is engraved with the fading words, "Ship Bell of Ironclad Merrimack." Judge said he doesn't know when that was inscribed. There's also been mention of a replica of the bell or a second one pulled from the wreckage of the Merrimack or Virginia.

Some details about its origin and journey remain a mystery, Judge said.

**'Bells are very emotional artifacts to the Navy. Symbolically, they're very rich in meaning.'**

Joseph Judge

Hampton Roads Naval Museum

## Man who murdered wife on boat fights restitution to Coast Guard

By MADELEINE O'NEILL

Erie (Pa.) Times-News

Christopher S. Leclair is serving life in prison for murdering his wife on Lake Erie.

He's fighting a different aspect of his sentence in court: the \$700,000 restitution he was ordered to pay to the U.S. Coast Guard for the massive search that began when he falsely reported his wife had fallen overboard off his fishing vessel.

In a court filing, Leclair's lawyer asked Erie County President Judge John J. Trucilla to cancel the restitution because the Coast Guard's claim was "an estimate and not the actual cost of the search and

rescue operation."

Trucilla ordered Leclair to pay a total of \$705,974 for the 30-hour search for Karen Leclair, 51. A jury found that Christopher Leclair shot his wife in the head while the couple was out on their fishing vessel, the Doris-M, on June 10, 2017.

He went back out on Lake Erie the next day and reported in a distress call that his wife had fallen overboard and gone missing, according to trial testimony.

According to a previous estimate provided by the Coast Guard, the amount included two C-130 planes — one from Air Station Elizabeth City in North Carolina and the other from the Canadian armed forces — as well as two Coast Guard heli-

copters from Air Station Detroit, two boats from the Erie Station and manpower costs for people involved in the search.

A boat spotted Karen Leclair's body about 6 miles off the coast of Dunkirk, N.Y., on July 4, 2017. Her body had been tied with rope and weighted down with an anchor.

Leclair's lawyer, Bruce Sandmeyer, argued in his motion that the personnel costs should not be included in the restitution because, he wrote, members of the military are paid a flat salary regardless of the work they perform.

Leclair currently is held at the State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill, near Harrisburg, state records show. He is

serving life in prison plus 17 years for the murder.

Trucilla is scheduled to hold a hearing Wednesday on the request to cancel the restitution order, court records show.

The Erie County District Attorney's Office argued in its response that Leclair should be required to pay for the search because it was the result of his false report.

"The defendant is not permitted to monopolize the combined manpower of the United States Coast Guard across multiple stations over numerous states in an effort to hide the murder of his wife through a false report of her falling overboard," Assistant District Attorney Paul Sellers wrote in a court filing.

## NATION

# Trump's erratic style spotlights its limitations

By CATHERINE LUCEY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The partial government shutdown is spotlighting the limitations of President Donald Trump's erratic negotiating style.

With the impasse over Trump's demand for border wall funding dragging into a third week, the president's zigzag tactics and messaging have

**ANALYSIS** angered Democrats and frustrated even some

Republicans struggling to help find him an off-ramp. And while Trump's blend of bluster and bullying is hardly new — and at times can produce results — his self-professed deal-making skills are now facing a bigger test against newly empowered Democrats.

So far, Trump is standing firmly with the loyal supporters who want him to fight for his promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, which he plans to visit Thursday, according to the White House. But that stance carries considerable risk. The midterm elections revealed a deeply divided Republican base and saw major Democratic gains in states in which Trump will need to win re-election in 2020.

Always his own biggest booster, Trump declared himself "very proud of what I'm doing" after a meeting with congressional leaders on Friday that produced no breakthrough. Trump's allies say he is simply keeping a long-standing campaign promise and they frame his focus on his base as a smart strategy since he will need to energize those supporters for his re-election campaign. Some suggested that Trump's true believers aren't even interested in a negotiated compromise.

"I guarantee polling-wise, with his base, he is right in the sweet spot," said former campaign aide Barry Bennett. "If he cut a deal now, it would hurt him."

But Trump will need a broader swath of support than those base voters to prevail in 2020.

## An uphill battle

Getting dollars for a border wall was always going to be an uphill task for Trump. But after Democrats took control of the House in the midterm elections, the president's leverage ebbed, and his unreliable maneuvers have only aggravated the situation.

In recent weeks, Trump declared he would "own" the shutdown, then instead blamed Democrats. His border demands have gone back and forth between a concrete wall and "steel slats." He's insulted Democrats, confused Republicans and offered little em-

pathy for the hundreds of thousands of federal workers without paychecks. And his Twitter feed and public pronouncements have produced a steady stream of inaccuracies about what he refers to as the "crisis on the border."

Trump's fitful style is hardly a surprise. In a previous budget shutdown, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, of New York, likened bargaining with Trump to negotiating with "Jell-O." Back in March, Trump threw lawmakers into a panic when he threatened an 11th-hour veto of an agreed-upon spending bill, only to be talked out of it by advisers.

Just a few weeks ago, lawmakers thought they had a solution to the standoff, with a short-term agreement to keep government open. The White House had signaled it would consider the plan. But then, Trump changed course after coming under intense pressure from conservative allies. Since then, he has repeatedly said he won't sign a spending deal that lacks money for the wall — though he's signaled some flexibility on just what constitutes a wall.

## Contradicting aides

A further complication: Trump's long practice of contradicting his aides makes it difficult for anyone else to negotiate on his behalf.

In recent days, Trump has rejected his own administration's previous offer to accept \$2.5 billion for the wall. After a round of staff-level talks Saturday, Vice President Mike Pence tweeted that the session had been "productive," only to have Trump later tweet: "Not much headway made today." On Sunday, Trump said that he was not expecting much to come from further talks held by Pence, undercutting him before the session even began.

If there has been a constant, in fact, it is the mixed messaging.

In a rambling Rose Garden appearance on Friday, Trump described his meetings with congressional leaders as productive, after Democrats claimed otherwise. He said much of the wall had been built, though it hasn't. He said Mexico would pay for the wall through a new trade deal, though there are no such terms in the still-unratified deal. He wrongly claimed that he'd never called for the wall to be concrete. And he claimed, without evidence, that some ex-presidents had told him to push for the wall.

Trump promised during his campaign that he could bring unmatched deal-making skills to the White House. But navigating complex legislation, trade issues and foreign policy matters is vastly different from executing real estate transactions.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

A police officer and a K-9 conduct a routine security check at the Capitol as the partial government shutdown lurches into a third week in Washington on Monday.

## President faces pressure from calendar

By MARGARET TALEV  
AND STEVEN T. DENNIS  
Bloomberg

President Donald Trump says he's prepared to keep part of the U.S. government shut down for more than a year if necessary to get the money he wants for a wall on the Mexican border.

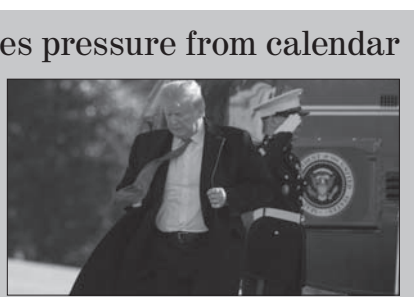
He plans to deliver a prime-time address Tuesday night on what he calls a border "crisis."

But a series of deadlines over the next seven weeks will increase pressure on Trump to cut a deal to end a shutdown that could soon become the longest in history. Hundreds of thousands of workers at nine Cabinet departments and other agencies will soon start to miss paychecks, and the longer the standoff continues, the more consequences Trump and Congress will face — including shuttered courts, filth piling up in national parks and delayed tax refunds.

Later in the year, unrelated issues will compound the shutdown's problems — the U.S. debt limit will need to be increased, and Congress will have to strike a deal with Trump to prevent steep, automatic cuts in federal spending. Here are some key upcoming dates and why they could shorten the shutdown:

■ **Jan. 11, missed paychecks.** For about \$000,000 federal workers on furlough or working without pay, this is the date they'll miss their first paycheck. That milestone will significantly escalate the political pain of the shutdown. While federal workers are not allowed to strike, many can be expected to eventually walk off the job and go work elsewhere — a challenge for maintaining services like the Transportation Security Administration — essential for air travel.

■ **Jan. 12, record shutdown.** The longest shutdown on record was in 1995. The government was closed for 21 days because President Bill Clinton and congressional Republicans, in charge of both cham-



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump adjusts his jacket as he walks from Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House on Sunday after returning from a trip to Camp David, Md.

bers for the first time in more than 40 years, couldn't agree on a spending plan.

■ **Jan. 21, Davos trip.** Trump is scheduled to travel to Davos, Switzerland, to address global political and business leaders at the World Economic Forum, and he may have to do so while the self-styled deal-maker can't get his own government reopened.

■ **Jan. 29, State of the Union.** Trump will give his second State of the Union address in the House chamber — with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, of California, sitting behind him. The backdrop of a government shutdown would cast a pall on what is usually a highlight of the year for any president.

"He doesn't like getting upstaged," said Doug Holtz-Eakin, president of the American Action Forum and former director of the Congressional Budget Office. He thinks this date is the first important milestone for the president.

■ **Late January and February, tax returns.** If history is any guide, taxpayers could see their refunds from the Internal Revenue Service held hostage if the shutdown extends into the filing season, which begins soon. In previous shutdown contingency plans, the IRS

would accept tax returns but would be prohibited from issuing refunds, which averaged about \$2,899 per check in 2018.

The agency has yet to release an updated version of its shutdown plan during a filing season but will likely do so in the coming days.

Holtz-Eakin said there should be considerable overlap between Trump's voter base and the kind of Americans who seek — and need — early tax refunds. "That's why it matters so much," he said.

■ **March 1, debt limit.** The current suspension of the U.S. debt limit expires. With extraordinary measures, the U.S. government could likely continue normal operations into the summer. Still, March 1 becomes another pressure point for the impasse to be resolved, and the longer a shutdown continues, the more likely other budget items — like a deal to prevent automatic spending cuts in 2020 — get wrapped into the talks.

■ **All year, census.** The Census Bureau is shuttered, preventing work on the decennial count of every American — a data crucial to allocate federal spending and redraw congressional districts. A shutdown hurts the Trump administration's ability to conduct the census on its terms.

## NATION

# NPS park service to tap fees to bring back staff

BY JULIET EILPERIN  
The Washington Post

The National Park Service will take the unprecedented step of tapping entrance fees to pay for expanded operations at its most popular sites, officials said Sunday, as the partial federal government shutdown threatens to degrade some of the nation's iconic landmarks.

Under a memorandum signed Saturday by the Interior Department's acting secretary, David Bernhardt, and obtained by The Washington Post, park managers will be permitted to bring on additional staff to clean restrooms, haul trash, patrol the parks and open areas that have been shut during the more than two-week budget impasse. In a statement Sunday, National Park Service Deputy Director P. Daniel Smith acknowledged that the administration's practice of keeping parks open but understaffed has become unsustainable at some of its most beloved sites.

"As the lapse in appropriations continues, it has become clear that highly visited parks with limited staff have urgent needs that cannot be addressed solely through the generosity of our partners," Smith said. "We are taking this extraordinary step to ensure that parks are protected and that visitors can continue to access parks with limited basic services."

The move, which some critics said could be illegal, shows the extent to which the Trump administration's decision to keep the national park system open to visitors is straining its capacity and potentially exposing public lands to long-term damage. During such shutdowns under the Clinton and Obama administrations, the Park Service chose to block access to its sites rather than leave them open with a skeleton staff on board. Trump administration officials chose the opposite: to keep trash as trash has begun to mount and key habitat has been imperiled, the administration is struggling to manage the problems.

## Legal questions

Congressional Democrats and some park advocates question whether the park fee move is legal because the fees that parks collect under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act are expressly designated to support visitor services instead of operations and basic maintenance. The new secretarial order authorizes parks that have "available balance" of these fee funds to spend them on operations that include trash collection and sanitation, road maintenance, campground operations, law enforcement and emergency operations, and entrance staff "as necessary to provide critical safety operations."

"The Department of Interior is very likely violating appropriations law," Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn., who is incoming chair of the House Appropriations subcommittee on interior, environment and related agencies, said in a phone interview Sunday. "I want to see our parks open, but I want to see our entire government open



ROBERT BERLIN, THE (MARVILL, TENN.) DAILY TIMES/AP

Visitors drive into the Great Smoky Mountain National Park in Tennessee on Saturday.

## Federal prisoners served steak by unpaid guards during shutdown

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.  
The Washington Post

With the partial federal government shutdown solidly into its third week, there is no shortage of hypocritical or ironic or just plain sad moments to further enrage apologetic taxpayers:

There are the overflowing port-a-potties and trash cans at national parks, reports of Vice President Mike Pence's scheduled \$10,000 pay raise, shuttered Smithsonian museums and the image of a relaxed-looking Nancy Pelosi vacationing at a Hawaiian resort where rooms top out north of \$5,000 a night.

Joe Rojas, a union leader and a guard at Florida's Coleman Federal Correctional Complex, would like to add another scene to the growing list: an unpaid federal prison employee, working on New Year's Day, serving a steak supper to convicted murderers, gang members and terrorists.

For inmates at Coleman, New Year's Day lunch was grilled steak, steamed rice with gravy, black-eyed peas, green beans, macaroni and cheese, a choice of garlic biscuits or whole wheat bread and an assortment of holiday pies.

The feast was served by not-particularly-festive prison guards and workers who have no idea when they will receive their next paycheck — but who have to come to work anyway because they work in crucial public safety jobs.

"We're already stressed. Outside the shutdown, the job is stressful," said Rojas, who has been a prison guard since 1995 and, as soon as

his car clears inspection, will be an Uber driver. "Now you've got the shutdown, you're coming to work and then you see this."

"They're using federal workers in a game of chicken. Who's going to blink first? We're a pawn," he said. "I didn't sign up for this. I signed up for this job to protect society and to have a good government job so when I retire, I can have a pension, not to be used in a game of chicken."

Chicken remains a sore subject for Rojas. Talking with colleagues in other facilities, he learned that federal inmates in Brooklyn, N.Y., feasted on Cornish hen, and prisoners in Minnesota got chicken wings on New Year's Day.

The guards weren't the only people in the facility who understood the irony of the situation. The inmates, Rojas said, were "eating like kings and then laughing at us."

Others bragged about the filling meal in emails that were screened by prison personnel for safety reasons. Some were copied by employees and sent to Rojas.

"I'ma end up fat i been eatin like a boss all week I just had steak, pie, chicken, potatoes, salad and cheese rice all type of things," one wrote. "bro i be workin out for [nothing]."

In a statement to NBC News, the Federal Bureau of Prisons said holiday meals are "planned weeks in advance, including as happened here in advance of the government shutdown."

The meals help "promote morale for the inmate population," the bureau said, because they are separated from their families, "the bureau said.

rized the move in an opinion but did not provide the document. This official did not specify how many agency employees would return to work under the revised contingency plan, but it could number in the hundreds. According to official estimates, as many as 16,000 of the Park Service's 20,000-person winter workforce is furloughed.

The law establishing the fees, which totaled \$299 million last fiscal year, allows for them to be spent on "repair, maintenance, and facility enhancement related directly to visitor enjoyment, visitor access, and health and safety," along with other purposes, such as visitor information and habitat restoration. Under the law, 80 percent of the money collected must be spent on the park, while 20 percent can go to fund activities at other park sites.

Fees collected at parks are supposed to enhance the visitor experience, which can include films about a site's resources and restoration projects that are specifically aimed at activities such as hunting, fishing and photography.

## 'A slippery slope'

Jon Jarvis, who led the Park Service under President Barack Obama, said in an email that the agency decided not to tap the fees during the 2013 shutdown because "that is a slippery slope" that would blur the line between the operating budget provided by Congress and these supplemental funds. The agency's solicitor agreed with that interpretation, he added.

The Park Service has not yet determined how many parks will be able to tap into these funds, officials said, but they would include the nation's most popular ones. Only 115 of the agency's 418 park sites collect entrance fees, though a few dozen more collect fees for campgrounds, parking and other purposes. These fees represent just a fraction of the agency's roughly \$3.2 billion annual budget.

Since any staffers returning to work will have their salaries paid through fees, that would mean that some Park Service employees will be paid for the hours they work during the shutdown while others, including some law enforcement officers, will not. In some sites where either state governments or outside groups are funding operations, employees are receiving at least part of their regular salaries.

In the memo, Bernhardt asks for a list of parks that will expand their operations by dipping into those funds, as well as ones that don't collect fees but can demonstrate a need for additional funds and how they would distribute them.

"While the [National Park Service] will not be able to fully open parks at the majority of the smaller sites around the country will remain closed, utilizing these funds now will allow the American public to safely visit many of the nation's national parks while providing these iconic treasures the protection they deserve," Smith said in a statement.

the right way, following the law."

McCollum said she had voiced her concerns about the parks' predicament in a phone call with Bernhardt on Saturday evening but he had not shifted course.

"We are certainly going to be doing oversight as the acting secretary moves forward with this, and he will be hearing from me directly," she said. "This will not open up the parks in any safe, effective manner for tourists to have a safe and enjoyable experience."

House Natural Resources Com-

mittee Chairman Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., said Sunday that his panel also would scrutinize the justification for the move, noting that the president expects taxpayers "to either pay more to keep the toilets clean out of their own pockets or pay millions of dollars for his ridiculous wall."

"Either way, this president is only happy as long as the American people pay for his every whim whenever it suits him," Grijalva said. "This is not how a rational president behaves, and the Natu-

ral Resources Committee will demand answers about whether these moves are legally justified."

As the shutdown continues, risks emerge at national park sites. At least seven people have died at national park sites since the shutdown began, including a man at Yosemite National Park who illegally took his dog on a trail and subsequently fell.

A Park Service official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to be candid, said the Interior Department's solicitor had autho-



## NATION

# Texas lawmakers looking for fresh start after 2018

By PAUL J. WEBER  
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas' last legislative session ended with one lawmaker threatening to shoot another after reporting Hispanic protesters to immigration agents, and corporate giants from Amazon to the NFL issuing warnings over a "bathroom bill" targeting transgender people.

More than a year later, comes a test: whether a humbling 2018 for Texas Republicans will soften one of the most conservative statehouses in the country.

The Texas Legislature returns Tuesday, and unlike in places such as Colorado and Minnesota where Democrats seized control of legislative chambers in November's midterm elections, Republicans remain firmly in power. They're ringing in a 20th consecutive year of controlling state legislative office. But they also took their licks: Democrats flipped 14 seats in the Legislature, closing the gap.

Beto O'Rourke's star-making challenge against Republican Sen. Ted Cruz at the top of the ticket propelled the upsets, igniting his own White House prospects and leaving Texas Republicans wobbling after their worst election in

a generation.

Now after years of the Texas Capitol playing host to some of the nation's biggest fights over abortion, immigration and anti-LGBT laws, some legislators in both parties foresee the midterm results and 2020's high stakes as curbing the appetite for divisive bills that derailed past sessions and turned off voters in the state's booming big cities.

The party in power after the 2020 election will draw new voting maps — an upper hand Republicans used last time to carve Texas into a 101-49 House supermajority in 2011. That advantage has since shrunk to 83-67.

"I think the voters made it clear what issues they want us focused on," said Republican state Rep. Jeff Leach, who held onto his suburban district near Dallas, where the GOP lost five House seats. "Their message to Republicans, at least, was: Don't compromise your values and your principles and beliefs, but focus on the big aspirational issues that keep Texas strong for a generation to come."

During Texas' most recent legislative session in 2017, Leach supported a contentious bill that would have required transgender people to use bathrooms that

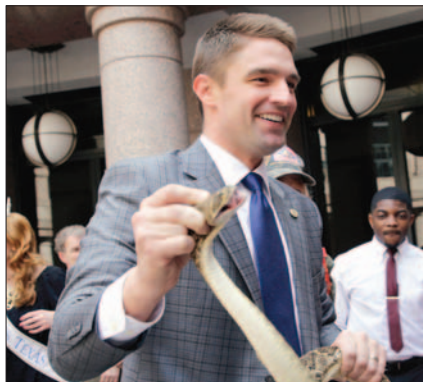
correspond with the sex on their birth certificate. The bill ultimately failed amid a backlash from Fortune 500 companies.

Now, Leach said, "I have not had anyone tell me" that issue needs to be a priority.

Across the U.S., Democrats picked up more than 330 state-house seats in November, according to the National Conference on State Legislatures. Other states where Republicans absorbed big losses while maintaining legislative power include Georgia, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Already in Texas, there are hints of less turbulence on the side of Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's second term. Like in many states, public school funding is the biggest issue singled out by both parties. Paying to help rebuild the Texas coast in the aftermath of 2017's Hurricane Harvey, the nation's most destructive storm since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, is another task.

Of course, calls for bipartisanship and getting to the unflashy business of state governance ring eternal at the start of every legislative session. And some Republicans lawmakers had signaled to audiences of Texas conservative activists before the midterms that they would continue push-



ERIC GAY/AP

**Texas state Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano, smiles while holding a rattlesnake at the Texas Capitol in Austin on Feb. 7, 2017, during a group's promotion of a rattlesnake round-up.**

ing bills on social issues, which would likely rekindle opposition with gay rights groups and big businesses.

All the while, Texas was passing one of the nation's toughest crackdowns on "sanctuary cities," allowing police to ask people during routine stops whether they're in the U.S. illegally. Tensions over the bill spilled into chaos on the session's final day, when Republican state Rep. Matt Rinaldi called U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Latino protesters in the House gallery. Democratic

state Rep. Poncho Nevarez angrily confronted Rinaldi, who later wrote on Facebook that he had warned Nevarez that he would "shoot him in self-defense."

Rinaldi lost re-election to his Dallas-area district last year, and Nevarez — re-elected to a fourth term in his district along the border with Mexico — says Republicans who push divisive bills this time do so at their own electoral risk.

"I think it's going to be different. We went down a real dark path last session," Nevarez said.

## Secret Russia-inspired campaign in 2017 Ala. election shocks Dems

The Washington Post

A secret effort to influence the 2017 Senate election in Alabama used tactics inspired by Russian disinformation teams, including the creation of fake accounts to deliver misleading messages on Facebook to hundreds of thousands of voters to help elect Democrat Doug Jones in the deeply red state, according to a document obtained by The Washington Post.

But unlike the 2016 presidential campaign when Russians worked to help elect Donald Trump, the people behind the Alabama effort — dubbed Project Birmingham — were Americans. Now Democratic operatives and a research firm known to have had roles in Project Birmingham are distancing themselves from its most controversial tactics.

Jones' narrow, upset victory over Republican Roy Moore in all likelihood resulted from other factors, political analysts say. Moore spent much of the special-election campaign battling reports in The Post that he had decades earlier made unwanted sexual advances toward teenage girls.

Recent revelations about Project Birmingham, however, have shocked Democrats in Alabama and Washington. And news of the effort has underscored the warnings of disinformation experts who long have said that threats to



MELINA MARA/The Washington Post

**Sen. Doug Jones, D-Ala., has called for an investigation into a secret effort to influence the 2017 election in his favor.**

honest, transparent political discourse in the age of social media are as likely to be domestic as foreign.

As the scandal has expanded, with calls for federal and state investigations and Facebook also conducting a review, the tactics described in the Project Birmingham document have come under intense scrutiny. Those included a "false flag" effort that generated phony evidence that automated Russian accounts called bots had supported Moore on Twitter and the creation of a misleading Facebook page, named at Alabama conservatives, that sought to undermine Moore by encouraging them to vote for a

rival Republican through a write-in campaign.

But all those who have acknowledged playing a role in Project Birmingham have denied knowing the full extent of the activities described in the document.

Project Birmingham got its funding from internet billionaire Reid Hoffman, who emerged as a leading underwriter of Democratic causes after the 2016 election. While acknowledging his money ended up paying for Project Birmingham, Hoffman said he did not know how his funds were used until details began to emerge in The New York Times and The Post.

Hoffman gave \$750,000 to a progressive technology start-up called American Engagement Technologies — founded by Mikey Dickerson, a former Obama administration official — that aimed to help Democrats, according to a person familiar with the finances who spoke on the condition of anonymity. That person said Dickerson used \$100,000 of that to hire New Knowledge, a Texas-based social media research firm, to work in Alabama in support of Jones during the special election in December 2017.

Dickerson — who is best known for leading the effort to fix HealthCare.gov, the glitchy portal for President Barack Obama's signature health-care initiative — said

in a statement to The Post that he learned of the extent of Project Birmingham only months after it was complete when he received a report on the operation.

That report, he said, came from New Knowledge, a company known mainly for its efforts to investigate online disinformation. More recently, it co-authored a report last month on Russian disinformation for the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Jonathan Morgan, the chief executive of New Knowledge, has denied knowledge of most of the activities described in the Project Birmingham document and disputed Dickerson's claim that New Knowledge authored it.

What is known about Project Birmingham comes mainly from the 12-page document labeled "Project Birmingham Debrief," which was obtained by The Post. It is dated Dec. 15, 2017, three days after the Alabama vote.

The document describes the effort as "a digital messaging operation to influence the outcome of the AL senate race" by targeting 650,000 likely voters with messages on social media platforms such as Facebook while obscuring the fact that the messages were coming from an effort backing Jones. Jones has said he had no knowledge of Project Birmingham and has called for a federal investigation.

The goal of the effort was to "radicalize Democrats, suppress unpersuadable Republicans

(“hard Rs”) and faction moderate Republicans by advocating for write-in candidates,” the document states. The document also makes bold but unverified claims about the effects of the operation, saying that it provided the decisive margin in an election decided by fewer than 22,000 voters — moving “enough votes to ensure a Doug Jones victory.”

Political analysts expressed skepticism that any of those tactics affected the election.

Project Birmingham had its roots in the anger and frustration Democrats felt after losing the White House and Congress in 2016 — with the assistance, many were convinced, of online disinformation peddled by Russians and also U.S. conservatives active on social media, who pushed damaging but false information about Democrat Hillary Clinton's health, honesty and suitability for office.

One person who expressed a desire to fight back was Dickerson, according to social media researcher Renee DiResta, who met him at a conference in Chicago in the same month that Trump was inaugurated. Dickerson told her at the time about his desire to create a start-up to battle political disinformation, she said.

## NATION

# California winter storms bring outages, mudslides

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tens of thousands of people lost power Sunday after a powerful winter storm swept through Northern California, while another storm system in the southern part of the state unleashed mudslides in wildfire burn areas and trapped motorists on a major highway.

The deluge loosened hillsides where a major blaze burned last year in and around Malibu, clogging the Pacific Coast Highway with mud and debris.

A stretch of the scenic route northwest of Los Angeles was expected to remain closed in both directions until Monday while crews tow away stuck vehicles and clear lanes. No injuries were reported.

The rapper Souly Boy was among those whose cars were mired in the muck that was up to 4 feet deep in some areas.

The 28-year-old reposted a photo of the mudslide and posted: "My car got stuck too almost went into the ocean," along with a

prayer emoji.

An automated rain gauge in the western Santa Monica Mountains showed nearly three-quarters of an inch of rainfall in one hour, said the National Weather Service.

"These are heavy rates," the weather service tweeted.

Up to 1 inch of rain fell in coastal and valley areas, while mountain communities got heavy snow.

Flash-flood watches and warnings were eventually lifted for areas burned by the fires that scorched more than 155 square miles of brush and timber acres in November, destroyed about 1,600 structures and claimed three lives.

The sun emerged in Los Angeles on Sunday. Scattered showers were possible later in the night.

To the north, wind and rain forced delays or cancellations of flights out of San Francisco International Airport for a second day. A wind advisory was in place until 10 p.m. Sunday.

The San Francisco Bay Area

could get up to 1 inch of rain, with the heaviest downpours coming after sunset.

Strong winds and downed trees knocked out electricity for at least 80,000 customers across the Sacramento region Sunday night. The National Weather Service said Sunday that winds gusted up to 49 mph.

Saturday's storm brought about a foot of snow to the Sierra Nevada and twice that amount was expected Sunday. A winter storm warning was in effect until 4 a.m. Monday.

Avalanche warnings were posted in parts of California, Nevada and Utah. The Sierra Avalanche Center issued a backcountry avalanche warning for the Lake Tahoe area stretching south into the Sierra along the California-Nevada line from noon Sunday until 7 a.m. Monday.

The National Weather Service said blizzard conditions with gale-force winds could trigger widespread avalanche activity.

Two feet of snow was reported at Mammoth Mountain, 150



BLAKE KESSLER/AP

Wesley Kepke skis in Alpine Meadows, Calif., on Sunday. A winter storm swept through parts of California, Nevada and Utah, bringing heavy snow to some communities.

miles south of Tahoe. More than a foot fell in the upper elevations around Tahoe, including 19 inches at Squaw Valley.

Windstorms that pummeled parts of Washington state and Oregon over the weekend left hundreds of thousands of people

without electricity.

A strong system brought winds that registered gusts of about 60 mph at Sea-Tac Airport in Washington, the National Weather Service in Seattle said. Dozens of flights in the region were canceled or delayed.



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# NATION

## Chinese tech firms lie lower at gadget show amid tensions

By Matt O'Brien  
Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS** — The 2019 International CES gadget show, which kicked off Sunday, will showcase the expanding influence and sway of China's rapidly growing technology sector. But some of its firms are stepping back from the spotlight amid rising U.S. national security concerns over Chinese tech and a trans-Pacific trade war launched by President Donald Trump.

Last year, a top executive of the Chinese telecom firm Huawei delivered a CES keynote address critical of AT&T's abrupt cancellation of plans to sell a Huawei phone following espionage concerns raised by the U.S. government. This year, Huawei's chief financial officer was arrested in Canada at the behest of the U.S. Meng Wanzhou, daughter of Huawei's founder, now awaits U.S. extradition.

No Chinese technology executives will deliver CES keynotes in Las Vegas this week.

There are fewer Chinese entrepreneurs buying up booth space to show off their latest technology — more than 20 percent fewer exhibitors than last year, according

to registration numbers tracked by the South China Morning Post. Chinese firms still account for more than a quarter of the conference's 4,500 exhibitors, second only to the U.S. in sheer numbers. But some of the biggest names are taking a more subdued approach.

Internet company Baidu last year hosted a flashy event touting its self-driving software, but this year it is sticking to a more conventional booth. E-commerce giant Alibaba is eschewing the big outdoor tent it helped erect last year in favor of quieter meetings marketing its voice assistant to business partners. The phone maker Xiaomi is skipping this year's event altogether.

None of them is citing U.S.-China tensions as a reason, but it's hard to ignore the geopolitical backdrop — even with a 90-day "cease-fire" on tariffs set to expire in March. Trump struck a more conciliatory tone Sunday as American trade negotiators prepared to meet with their counterparts in Beijing.

The U.S. and China have imposed import taxes on hundreds of billions of dollars of each other's goods — and Trump has threatened more to come, including tariffs that could make device

as iPhones more expensive. The U.S. is also exploring new export restrictions that would target industries where China is hoping to get ahead, such as artificial intelligence and robotics.

Also, the Justice Department brought charges last month against two Chinese citizens it accused of stealing American trade secrets and other sensitive information on behalf of Beijing's main intelligence agency.

Of course, plenty of Chinese entrepreneurs are still eager to show off their innovations. Hosts of the 52-year-old trade event have sought to downplay the tensions, noting that they've weathered previous trade tensions, such as those that roiled U.S.-Japan relations in the 1980s.

"The Japanese presence used to be very big and it was similar in that the U.S. was in a panic about it," said Gary Shapiro, CEO of the Consumer Technology Association, which organizes CES. That ended when the Japanese "bubble" economy burst in 1991 and its tech industry began a long, slow decline.

Shapiro said the trade dispute with China and the Meng arrest in Canada aren't affecting attendance. CES organizers on Sun-



JOHN LOCHER/AP

**IFLYTEK Vice President Steven Li speaks during an IFLYTEK news conference before the 2019 International CES gadget show on Sunday in Las Vegas.**

day wouldn't confirm numbers showing a sharp drop in Chinese exhibitors but said a decline in small Chinese companies on the show floor was made up by expanded booth presence from bigger firms.

Chinese tech firms are increasingly joining their American, South Korean and Japanese counterparts in using CES to build enthusiasm for up-and-coming electronics products while also connecting with potential new international partners and suppliers. That's especially true for electronics firms like Hisense and TCL Corp., which have increasingly sought to sell their TVs in North America, and Lenovo, which is already a big player in the U.S. laptop market but is pushing to sell other internet-connected devices.

Hisense is making a splashier presentation this year as it invests in boosting its U.S. brand awareness, said Jim Niesling, head of marketing for Hisense USA. Previously, the company, which has a large market share in China, mostly kept on the U.S. sidelines, branding some of its products under the name of the better-known Japanese firm Sharp.

In an ideal world, the tech industries in the two countries would be seen as complementary, said venture capitalist Kai-Fu Lee, who led Google's subsidiary in China before the company withdrew over censorship and other concerns.

"The U.S. strength is deep in technologists, universities, academics, people with superior experience," he said. "China's superiority is a larger market, more data and very tenacious and hardworking."

## At CES 2019, people will buy more smart stuff, fewer TVs

Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS** — The 2019 International CES gadget show is revving up in Las Vegas. Here are the latest findings and observations from Associated Press reporters on the ground as technology's biggest trade event gets underway.

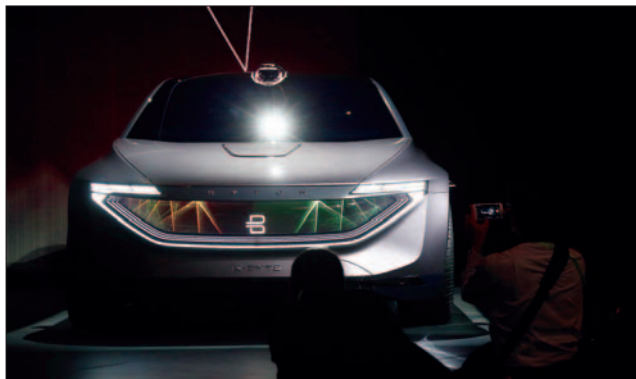
■ **More smart devices, fewer TVs.** What gadgets will Americans buy this year? Lots of "smart" devices for their home, according to projections from a technology association. If that sounds a lot like last year, you're right, but sales are still expected to grow again in 2019.

The Consumer Technology Association expects nearly 37 million Amazon Echoes, Google Homes and other smart speakers to be sold this year in the U.S., a 5 percent increase from a year ago. Meanwhile, more than 29 million smart doorbells, thermostats and switches are expected to be sold, a 23 percent increase from the previous year.

The numbers were released Sunday, two days before the CES 2019 gadget show opens to attendees in Las Vegas. The CTA runs the show, which is technology's largest trade gathering.

Other gadgets expected to sell well in 2019 include wireless earbuds, smartwatches and drones. Fewer TVs are expected to be sold, however — 42 million units, a 1 percent decline from 2018.

Total U.S. tech revenue, which



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

**Byton unveiled the K-Byte Concept car during a news conference before CES.**

includes video and music streaming services like Spotify, is expected to rise 3.9 percent to a record \$398 billion this year, the CTA said.

■ **Steering wheel touchscreen.** Ready for a smartphone-like touchscreen on your car's steering wheel? That's the future according to Chinese electric carmaker Byton, which is planning to sell its first vehicles in China this year and in the U.S. in 2020.

Byton CEO Carsten Breitfeld unveiled the new driver interface system Sunday at CES. He said the wheel-mounted touchscreen on the company's first model, called the M-Byte, "will stand still while the steering wheel rotates." The crossover SUV also features a long digital screen across its dashboard.

Byton executives say they've met with legal authorities in various countries to ensure the en-

tertainment and control system meets safety standards. They say it's safer than dashboard touchscreens because the wheel's already in a driver's field of vision.

The vehicles are expected to sell starting at \$45,000.

■ **Government shutdown.** Even the world's largest tech conference is feeling the effects of the partial U.S. government shutdown. Organizers of CES said Saturday that some scheduled

government speakers have canceled their travel plans.

Canceled speakers include Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai and at least nine other officials from agencies including the Federal Trade Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Homeland Security.

CES organizers say Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao is still planning to deliver a keynote talk Wednesday on federal initiatives to advance drone technology and self-driving vehicles.

■ **Apple as the elephant in the CES showroom.** Apple stopped attending the consumer-electronics show years ago, but it's still making its presence known. It splashed a huge sign across a high-rise hotel overlooking the CES conference center.

The sign says, "What happens on your iPhone, stays on your iPhone." It's a not-so-subtle dig at the looser privacy practices of data-hungry rivals like Google and Amazon.

But Apple also has news to share at CES. It's just letting some of its partners do the talking.

Samsung announced Sunday that its TVs will start offering Apple's iTunes movies and TV shows beginning this spring. It's a shift for Apple, which typically hasn't allowed its services to run on non-Apple hardware. (The big exception: iTunes on Windows PCs.)



## NATION

# ‘The voice for people who no longer speak’

## Crime scene tech joins NM sheriff's office as a first

By SAMI EDGE

The Santa Fe New Mexican

SANTA FE, N.M. — Shari Vialpando, 37, has many nicknames for herself — “Black Widow” and “Workhorse” among them.

The monikers are an apt description of the crime scene technician, the first person ever to hold that title at the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office.

In her 15 months with the sheriff's office, Vialpando has helped detectives photograph and collect evidence for major cases, including homicides, assaults and suspicious deaths.

It's not a job for everyone. But Vialpando loves it.

“I view life differently than other people do,” Vialpando told the Las Cruces New Mexican. “People freak out and say, ‘How can you do this job, the gruesome things that you see? How can you cope?’”

“To me, when I go out on an unattended death, a homicide, it's tragic, yes. Somebody's life was lost,” she said. “And I feel like those people trust me to bring them justice. So, to me, I'm the voice for people who no longer speak.”

A former news photographer for the Las Cruces Sun-News, Vialpando crossed over to law enforcement about five years ago when she became an evidence technician for the Las Cruces Police Department.

Vialpando grew up in Santa Fe and attended New Mexico State University, where she studied journalism and communication with an emphasis on photography. Her interest in the field was sparked by working in the darkness as part of the Capital High School yearbook staff.

When she was hired at the Sun-News, Vialpando routinely would follow the police to crime scenes. She was always curious, she said, about what happened after the cops pulled down the crime scene tape.

“I'm nosy by nature,” Vialpando said. “It's not just what you go to publish and it's over. There's so much that happens behind the scenes that I was curious to learn about.”

When a friend at the Las Cruces Police Department suggested she would make a good evidence technician, she made the jump.

Vialpando, a single mother of three, moved to the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office in October 2017 so her young daughters could be closer to family.

In Las Cruces, Vialpando worked with a team of crime scene evidence technicians who would work 24/7 shifts to photograph and collect evidence



PHOTOS BY GABRIELA CAMPOS, SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN/AP

**Shari Vialpando, crime scene tech for the Santa Fe County Sheriff Office, shows detectives various angles to use photographing on crime scenes on Dec. 19.**

for burglaries, homicides and everything in between.

In Santa Fe, Vialpando works primarily on felony cases, dedicating her time to processing

**‘I’m nosy by nature.’**

**Shari Vialpando**  
New Mexico  
crime scene  
technician

crime scenes and evidence for detectives so they can focus on interviews and other aspects of an investigation.

She's plenty busy.

“For a little while, when she started, she seemed a little bit bored,” outgoing Sheriff Robert Garcia said. “And all of a sudden, it's like a snowstorm just came down on her.”

In January 2018, sheriff's detectives discovered the body of 13-year-old Jeremiah Valencia, who they believe was beaten to death by his mother's boyfriend and the boyfriend's son. According to documents in the case, Vialpando played a key role in that investigation, working sleepless nights to recover the boy's body, collect and process evidence, and more.

Then, in late February, the sheriff's office found two bodies stuffed in trash cans near Stanley, in the southern part of Santa Fe County. Vialpando processed those scenes before turning the case over to the Albuquerque Police Department.

In late June, deputies opened an investigation into the homicide of Thomas Trujillo, who was found shot to death in a home on Santa Fe's south side.

“They say, ‘Be careful what you wish for,’ and that became a very true statement,” Vialpando said. “The black cloud just continued and I've been very busy ever since.”

Her self-applied Black Widow nickname is apt, she said, because death seems to follow her. Or, more accurately perhaps, she follows death — even when it's not always readily apparent.

In the field, Vialpando said she treats every scene as if it were a homicide. She works through a mental checklist, taking exterior photos of a scene and working her way to photographs of suspects and victims, wounds and evidence. She collects DNA swabs, sprays chemicals that illuminate blood traces and brings evidence back to the sheriff's office to catalog and store, among other things.

If she's not busy on a crime scene, Vialpando also helps transcribe jail phone calls, transports evidence to the state crime lab in Santa Fe and teaches deputies photography skills.

“If it's something I can step up and do, then I'm more than willing,” she said. “Like I told you, I'm a workhorse.”

Vialpando plans to encourage the sheriff's office to hire more



**Vialpando retrieves supplies from the top of the Mobile Crime Scene Unit on Dec. 19.**

crime scene techs who can help deputies document and process misdemeanor crime scenes.

While Vialpando is an expert in crime scene processing and an evidence specialist, she's not done learning.

Next to her computer, she keeps a small bobblehead doll of TV

character Dexter — a blood-spatter analyst with a dark secret as a serial killer. Vialpando doesn't have a past like Dexter, but she does have a career goal of becoming a blood-spatter expert.

“I think a lot can be told by the bloodshed on the scene,” Vialpando said.

## WORLD

## Gabon's government puts down coup attempt, arrests plotters

By YVES LAURENT GOMA  
Associated Press

LIBREVILLE, Gabon — Gabon's government has retained control of the West African country after an attempted military coup early Monday, the government said.

Five army officers who took over state radio in the coup attempt have been arrested, government spokesman Guy-Bertrand Mapangou told Radio France International.

Authorities have regained control of the state broadcasting offices and a major thoroughfare in the capital, Libreville, which were the only areas taken over by the officers, according to the spokesman.

Earlier Monday a soldier who identified himself as Lt. Obiang Ondo Kelly, commander of the Republican Guard, read out a statement saying the military had seized control of the government of this West African country.

He was flanked by two other soldiers holding weapons and all were dressed in camouflage uniforms and green berets.

He had said they were taking over to "restore democracy."

Those soldiers have been taken into custody and President Ali Bongo's government remains in control, said the spokesman.

A curfew has been imposed over Libreville, and the internet has been cut.

The city on the Atlantic Ocean coast is being patrolled by military tanks and armed vehicles.

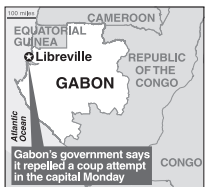
The African Union affirmed its support for the Bongo government.

"The African Union strongly condemns the coup attempt this morning in Gabon," the head of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, said on Twitter. "I reaffirm the AU's rejection of all anti-constitutional change."



GABON STATE TV/AP

**A soldier who identified himself as Lt. Obiang Ondo Kelly reads a statement on state television broadcast Monday from Libreville, Gabon, saying the military has seized control of the West African country. A government spokesman says the coup was unsuccessful.**



SOURCE: AP NGA AFRICA/Stars and Stripes

Bongo, in power since 2009, has been out of the country since October amid reports that he had a stroke. He recently addressed the country in a New Year's message that was filmed in Morocco, where he has been receiving medical treatment.

Oil-rich Gabon has been ruled for more than half a century by Bongo and his father, Omar, who died in 2009.

## GIs in Gabon remain focused on Congo

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A failed coup attempt in the West African nation of Gabon hasn't changed the mission of U.S. troops deployed there last week in response to potential violence in the nearby Democratic Republic of the Congo, U.S. Africa Command said Monday.

On Friday, the White House said it had ordered about 80 combat-equipped military personnel to Gabon amid concerns that elections in Congo would result in violent clashes and possibly pose a threat to U.S. diplomatic assets. However, on Monday members of Gabon's military launched a coup attempt and seized control of state radio in the country.

"At this time there is no change

in the status of our forces in Gabon," AFRICOM spokesman John Manley said as events were unfolding Monday. The troops are not currently tasked with securing diplomatic assets there, he said.

Gunshots were reported early Monday in Gabon's capital of Libreville.

The country's president, Ali Bongo, is reportedly out of the country for medical treatment.

The takeover attempt was sparked by "reinforced doubts about the president's ability to continue to carry out the responsibilities of his office," said Lt. Obiang Ondo Kelly, the leader of a breakaway military force, quoted in a Reuters report.

The sudden revolt in Gabon, which has a long history of military relations with the U.S., high-

lights the region's volatility.

The country plays host to one of AFRICOM's cooperative security locations, which function as barebones launching pads for quick-reaction troops called upon to secure U.S. diplomatic facilities in the broader region.

President Donald Trump, in his letter of notification Friday to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi about the U.S. deployment to Gabon, said more troops could be dispatched to Gabon, Congo or the separate Republic of Congo as needed.

The troops "will remain in the region until the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo becomes such that their presence is no longer needed," Trump said.

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## China protests US warship as trade talks start

By JOE McDONALD  
Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese and American officials began talks Monday aimed at ending a bruising trade battle between the world's two biggest economies as Beijing complained over the sighting of a U.S. warship in what it says were Chinese waters.

It was unclear if the ruckus over the warship might disrupt the working level talks being held at the Chinese Commerce Ministry. The two sides have provided scant information about the discussions.

Both sides have expressed optimism over the potential for progress in settling their tariff fight over Beijing's technology ambitions. Yet neither has indicated its stance has changed since a Dec. 1 agreement by Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping to postpone further increases.

Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said Monday during a routine briefing that Chinese military aircraft and naval vessels were dispatched to identify the U.S. vessel and warn it to leave the area near disputed islands in the South China Sea.

"We have made stern complaints with the U.S.," Lu said. He said the warship, which he said was the destroyer the USS McCampbell, had violated Chinese and international law, infringed on Chinese sovereignty and undermined peace and stability.

"As for whether this move has any impact to the ongoing China-U.S. trade consultations...to properly resolve existing issues of all kinds between China and the U.S. is good for the two countries and the world," Lu said.

But he added, "The two sides both have responsibility to create necessary and good atmosphere to this end."

A Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Col. David Eastburn, said, "The United States will continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows."

The American side in the trade talks is being led by a deputy U.S. trade representative, Jeffrey D. Gerrish, according to the U.S. government. The delegation includes officials from the Agriculture, Energy, Commerce, Treasury and State departments.

The talks went ahead despite tensions over the arrest of a Chinese tech executive in Canada on U.S. charges related to possible violations of trade sanctions against Iran.

Trump imposed tariff increases of up to 25 percent on \$250 billion of Chinese imports over complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. Beijing responded by imposing penalties on \$110 bil-



ANDY WONG/AP

**Deputy U.S. trade representative Jeffrey D. Gerrish is leading the U.S. delegation in Beijing for trade talks with China.**

lion of American goods, slowing customs clearance for U.S. firms and suspending issuing licenses in finance and other businesses.

Economists say the 90-day postponement of tariff increases that had been meant to take effect Jan. 1 may be too short to settle the disputes bedeviling U.S.-Chinese relations. But cooling economic growth in both countries is raising pressure to reach a settlement.

Chinese growth fell to a post-global crisis low of 6.5 percent in the quarter ending in September. Auto sales tumbled 16 percent in November over a year earlier. Weak real estate sales are forcing developers to cut prices.

The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 3.4 percent in the third quarter, and unemployment is at a five-decade low. But surpluses show consumer confidence is weakening because of concern that growth will slow this year.

Washington, Europe and other trading partners complain Beijing's tactics violate its market-opening obligations. The standoff also reflects American anxiety about China's rise as a potential competitor in telecommunications and other technology. Trump wants Beijing to roll back initiatives intended to create homegrown Chinese leaders in robotics and artificial intelligence.

China's leaders see such strategies as a path to greater prosperity and global influence and have tried to defuse complaints by emphasizing the country's potential as a huge consumer market. They've also promised to allow more Chinese access to its auto, finance and other industries.

Beijing has tried in vain to recruit France, Germany, South Korea and other governments as allies against Trump, but they have echoed U.S. complaints about China's industrial policy and market barriers.

## WORLD

# Cardinal on trial in France's biggest church abuse trial

By NICOLAS VAUX-MONTAGNY  
Associated Press

LYON, France — A Catholic cardinal and five other people went on trial Monday, accused of covering up for a pedophile priest who abused Boy Scouts — France's most important church sex abuse case to date.

The case poses a new challenge to the Vatican amid growing demands in overwhelmingly Catholic France for a reckoning with decades of sexual abuse by the clergy.

Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, 68, appeared in a Lyon court Monday, along with other senior church officials accused of failing to protect children from alleged abuse by the Rev. Bernard Preynat. The top Vatican official in charge of sex abuse cases, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, is among the accused but won't appear in court because the Vatican invoked his diplomatic immunity.

After taking his seat in the front

row, Barbarin held his hands together and closed his eyes, as if in prayer. The judge then read out the lengthy accusations against the defendants, and the defense used procedural arguments to try to get the case thrown out.

Nine people who said Preynat abused them in the 1970s and 1980s brought the case to court and hope it marks a turning point in efforts to hold the French church hierarchy accountable for hushing up abuse. The victims say top clergy were aware of Preynat's actions for years but allowed him to be in contact with children until his 2015 retirement.

Despite nationwide attention to the case, it may fall apart for legal reasons. Prosecutors initially threw it out for insufficient evidence, and Barbarin maintains his innocence. His lawyer says his client never obstructed justice because the statute of limitations had passed on the acts in question by the time Barbarin was informed.

"Accusing an innocent man doesn't advance a cause," lawyer Jean-Polix Luciani said.

If found guilty of failing to report the priest's actions, the defendants could face up to three years in prison and a 45,000-euro, or \$51,300, fine. Barbarin and some other defendants are also charged with failing to assist a person in peril.

The case is a new test for Pope Francis, whose blind spot on clergy sex abuse has threatened his legacy and thrown the Catholic hierarchy into a credibility crisis. Francis has praised Barbarin as "brave" and said French justice should take its course.

The priest Preynat, now in his 70s, wrote letters to some families confessing the abuse and is to be tried separately on sexual violence charges involving 10 children.

One of his alleged victims, Alexander Heze, hailed the trial as an effort to "move justice forward." Heze, 44, spoke to the cardinal



LAURENT CIPRIANI/AP

Cardinal Philippe Barbarin waits for the start of his trial at the Lyon courthouse in central France on Monday.

directly about Preynat and is among those who brought the case to trial.

Barbarin sought counsel on how to handle abuse accusations against Preynat from the Vatican official, Cardinal Ladaria, who recommended disciplinary measures while "avoiding a public scandal."

Numerous child sex abuse claims have been made against Catholic clergy in France since the 1990s, but there hasn't been

a huge wave like those seen in the U.S., Ireland and some other countries.

Barbarin is the highest-level French church figure accused of covering up abuse, and his case has cast a shadow over the diocese and the French Catholic Church. As a result, the Bishops of France last year created an ambitious commission aimed at shedding light on sexual abuse of minors in the church since 1950. A report is due in 2020.

## UN takes custody of fleeing Saudi woman trapped in Thailand

By SIRAPHOB THANTHONG-KNIGHT  
Bloomberg

The United Nations refugee agency has taken custody of an 18-year-old Saudi woman who said she was fleeing abuse from her family, enabling her to stay in Thailand until she's granted asylum in another country.

Rahaf Mohammed Alqunon, whose predicament went viral via her Twitter account, told Human Rights Watch that she had arrived at Bangkok's main airport on Jan. 5 from Kuwait and that her passport was seized, preventing her from traveling to Australia.

"She's in Thailand now," Surachate Hakpurn, the nation's immigration chief, said at a briefing Monday afternoon at the Suvarnabhumi Airport. "Nobody can force her to do



Alqunon

later on Monday.

Surachate said she left the airport in UNHCR custody, and the agency told him it would take about five days to process the case. Late Monday, her father was expected to arrive in Thailand, but Surachate said it

anything. We'll protect her."

After representatives from the UN's refugee agency, known as UNHCR, met Alqunon to discuss whether she wanted to go to Australia or stay in Thailand, she was allowed to enter the Southeast Asian country temporarily, Surachate said

will be up to her whether she wants to see him.

Alqunon had been holed up in a hotel at the airport and earlier said in a video posted on Twitter that she wouldn't leave the room until she met the UNHCR representatives, adding she wanted asylum.

"I'm shouting out for help of humanity," she wrote on Twitter, where she had been documenting her situation in Arabic and English.

She said that she would be "in real danger" if Thai authorities deported her and feared her family would kill her. Alqunon barricaded herself inside the hotel room to resist deportation aboard a Kuwait Airways flight on Monday morning, which then left Bangkok without her, according to her posts.

The Saudi Embassy in Bangkok said in a

statement that it hadn't impounded Alqunon's passport. It said she was stopped by airport authorities for lacking "a return reservation or a tourist program" and will be deported to Kuwait where her family lives. Alqunon said, however, that she resides in Saudi Arabia, posting a picture of her university identification card.

Human Rights Watch said she risks criminal charges in Saudi Arabia for "parental disobedience," which can result in imprisonment, as well as for "harming the reputation of the kingdom." Alqunon also told some media outlets that she had renounced Islam, a criminal offense in Saudi Arabia that can be punishable by death.

Bloomberg wasn't able to interview Alqunon or independently verify her story.

## Victims of Poland 'Escape Room' fire to be buried together

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — The five teenage girls who died in a fire at an Escape Room Poland entertainment site in northern Poland will be buried together in a joint ceremony this week, the city mayor said Monday.

Fire officials said 26 similar sites have been shut down due to security flaws since the accident Friday. Inspections of some 1,100 sites across Poland continue.

The man who designed the Escape Room in the city of Koszalin has been detained and charged with intentionally creating a fire danger and unintentionally causing the deaths. The local court ordered him held for three months while the case proceeds. Prosecutors said the site's heating system was faulty and there was no emergency evacuation route.

Koszalin Mayor Piotr Jedlinski

said the city is arranging and financing the joint burial Thursday of the 15-year-old victims, who were school friends and celebrating a birthday when the accident took place. Prosecutor Ryszard Gasiorowski said Monday that during questioning, an employee at the site who suffered burns and remains hospitalized told investigators that one of the gas cylinders in the reception room's heating system began making a strange sound and he couldn't fix it.

He said the fire started suddenly and cut off his way to the door of the locked room where the girls were. The employee then ran out of the building and asked passers-by to call help.

Escape Room players are locked inside a room and must solve puzzles and find clues that lead them to the key that will unlock the door.



AP

Forensic experts and other police investigators examine the site of a fire in an Escape Room in Koszalin, Poland, on Saturday.

## Activist drops bid to finish 100 marathons

JOHANNESBURG — Injury has forced an Australian activist to stop her effort to complete 100 marathons in 100 days as a way to highlight the importance of conserving water.

Mina Guli, 48, had run and walked 62 marathons on several continents, but in South Africa, she was diagnosed with multiple stress fractures in her right femur.

A representative said Monday that Guli will now focus on recovery, though she will continue her #RunningDry campaign to raise awareness about global water shortages.

Guli, whose last marathon was on Friday, tweeted that it was taking 12 hours to complete the daily distance. She also said doctors advised her she would never be able to run again if she continued.

From The Associated Press



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Tobias Naegele

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# OPINION

## Trump made the right call on Syria

By AARON DAVID MILLER  
AND RICHARD SKOLSKY  
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Much of America's foreign policy establishment, on both the right and the left, has been in an uproar over President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw 2,000 U.S. troops from Syria. If Trump's critics are to be believed, it amounts to one of the worst foreign policy blunders in U.S. history, a catastrophe for U.S. interests and influence in the Middle East. Although the president's failure to consult and coordinate with Congress and allies in making the decision was a head-spinning case of diplomatic and political malpractice, on balance, critics' fears about the withdrawal are overblown. Here are five reasons why.

The Islamic State "caliphate" isn't going to return. ISIS now controls 1 percent of the territory it once held in Syria and Iraq. It has lost thousands of fighters and recruitment is down. Syria is not Iraq in 2011, where ISIS militants advanced when there were no countervailing forces. ISIS fighters still confront thousands of determined Kurdish forces, and Syria, Iraq, Israel, Turkey and Russia share an interest in preventing ISIS resurgence. Jihad attacks in northeast Syria will continue and could certainly contribute to keeping Syria unstable. But a continued U.S. military presence won't change that, or eliminate the risk of a terrorist attack on the U.S. Wiping out ISIS was never realistic — the political, economic and sectarian grievances that inspire ISIS cannot be eliminated by military means alone, and the administration refuses to invest in efforts that might address those issues.

Israel and the Kurds can survive without U.S. troops in Syria. It's true that the foothold Iran and its proxies have in Iraq and Syria, have established in Syria threatens

Israeli security. But Israel can defend itself and is doing so by attacking Iranian and Hezbollah targets in Syria. "Our enemies understand our intelligence and air superiority," said the Israel Defense Forces chief of staff after Trump's announcement.

As for the Kurds, U.S. officials always made it clear that Washington viewed its partnership with these fighters as transactional, temporary and tactical. It simply isn't in U.S. interests to help create the autonomous enclave the Kurds seek in northeast Syria. That fight could lead to a direct military confrontation with Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces or with NATO ally Turkey, which sees the Syrian Kurds as a mortal enemy. The major actors, including Turkey, have an interest in avoiding an all-out battle with the Kurds, who, in the wake of Trump's decision, have begun to seek reconciliation with Assad.

Vital U.S. interests won't be sacrificed when the troops are withdrawn. The United States doesn't have vital interests in Syria. The United States under President Barack Obama just as it is under Trump. Yes, the Syrian war is a proxy conflict between the U.S. and Iran and Russia, and yes the war has had a horrific toll — hundreds of thousands of civilians killed, a massive refugee crisis, cities destroyed, terrorists sent around the world — but neither the White House, Congress nor the American public, after protracted wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, support a huge military and economic investment in Syria.

Syria is not a major source of oil. It isn't an existential threat to Israel. The terrorist threat it poses to the U.S. has been inflated and is better handled by means other than military action. The country is broken, dysfunctional; neither Russia nor Iran will be able to use its influence there to establish hegemony in the Middle East. Syria is a net security drain, and Iran aren't left with a win. Iran and Russia

will dominate Syria if they have done for years. Both countries have always had a greater strategic stake in Syria than the U.S., and thus were more willing to accept a high price to protect their interests there. Now both will struggle with the difficulties of pacifying and reconstructing a war-torn state. With American forces in place, Putin and the Iranians could leave some of the dirty work of confronting the remnants of ISIS to Washington; no longer. And with the U.S., a common adversary, gone, tensions between Iran and Russia could rise. The more Syria becomes a burden for Russia and Iran, the better for the U.S.

American credibility hasn't been destroyed. Any damage to the U.S. stems from our own reckless rhetoric and confused policy in Syria — we never committed toousting Assad, pushing out Iran or helping the Syrian Kurds realize their political goals. Other U.S. allies and partners will judge America's support based on how the U.S. responds to them individually, not on how Washington has behaved in a country where it has no vital interests.

Two U.S. presidents have failed to come up with an effective policy toward Syria and the Syrian civil war. Withdrawing 2,000 U.S. forces from a battlefield in which other powers have the will and resources to prevail may make Syria messier. But keeping U.S. military forces in place with no serious, long-term strategy or attainable objectives to guide them would not make the situation significantly better. Syria was never a U.S. interest, and getting out now is not a catastrophe.

Aaron David Miller, a vice president at the Woodrow Wilson Center, has been a State Department adviser in Republican and Democratic administrations. Richard Skolsky, a nonresident senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, worked in the secretary of state's Office of Policy Planning in 2005-15.

## Trump wallows, and US allies are left on their own

By JACKSON DIEHL

The Washington Post

While President Donald Trump was "all by myself in the White House" over Christmas, watching the "guys out there" with machine guns, Russia's Vladimir Putin seemed to be contemplating another war with Ukraine. While his top aides issued threatening statements, the Ukrainian government and some Western observers, both wary of suspicious movements of Russian aircraft and equipment. The Institute for the Study of War reported on Dec. 23 that "the data suggests Putin is preparing to attack." Analyst Michael Kofman, of the Wilson Center, judged an invasion unlikely but concluded that "Moscow will be likely to bloody Ukraine at the first available opportunity."

So far, nothing has happened, though Russia continues to hold the two dozen sailors it captured when it assaulted three Ukrainian ships near Crimea on Nov. 25, and it is still hindering shipping to several Ukrainian ports. But Putin's maneuvering points to how America's adversaries are likely to react to the increasing chaos of the Trump presidency. They will spend 2019 testing how much they can gain at the expense of a U.S. president who has sidelined most of his military security team and has been making a display of his ignorance of and disregard for U.S. interests.

If there is to be no U.S. response — and so far, there hasn't been — Putin has reason to step up military attacks on Ukraine ahead of its presidential election in March, which he hopes will unsettle U.S. incumbent Petro Poroshenko. Now that Trump

has declared that Iran "can do what they want" in Syria, expect Tehran to entrench more forces and missiles near the border with Israel. While the government of Benjamin Netanyahu won't be happy with that, it has taken its own advantage of Trump's passivity, launching what The Associated Press described last week as "what could be the largest construction binge in years" in the occupied West Bank.

The leader whose calculation of Trump's weakness may matter most is China's Xi Jinping, who reacted to Barack Obama's retreat from enforcing U.S. red lines by taking over much of the South China Sea. Xi and Trump are engaged in a trade negotiation that could be crucial to the fortunes of both countries this year. China starts at a seeming disadvantage: U.S. tariffs already have helped induce a sharp slowdown in consumer spending and a 25 percent drop in the Shanghai stock market, the largest decline since the 2008 crash.

But Xi no doubt has been listening as Trump has revealed an obsession with U.S. stock prices and anxiety over their decline. Last week, Trump predicted the markets will rebound "once we settle trade issues." Xi's most likely conclusion: He can wait Trump out. Beijing will offer to settle the trade dispute for a price, such as a promise to buy more U.S. products. Xi will bet that Trump won't seek to truly break Chinese mercantilism if it means more losses in the Standard & Poor's 500.

Meanwhile, China's step-by-step bid for hegemony over East Asia will continue. Xi will quietly encourage North Korea's Kim Jong Un to pursue military readiness, any denazification deal with Trump that doesn't

include the withdrawal of U.S. forces and assets from the region. After all, he would have heard Trump say that Patrick Shanahan, the inexperienced former Boeing executive he appointed to fill in for departed Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, agrees with him that "we're giving military protection to countries that are weak, and they're not doing anything for us." In Trump's mind, that means South Korea.

Putin was no doubt listening to that rant in front of the Cabinet, as well. He would have heard Trump defend, of all things, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan while talking over the heads of the U.S. State Department. He would have heard him describe Syria as "sand and death." And he would have noted that there was not a word about Ukraine. Any other U.S. president would have by now taken common-sense steps to deter Putin from further aggression, in conjunction with allies such as Germany, Britain and France. Allied ships would be appearing in the Black Sea and stopping at Ukrainian ports, and teams of observers from NATO would be deploying in eastern Ukraine to monitor Russian activity. U.S. diplomats would be negotiating with the European Union on a new round of sanctions against Russia in response to its naval belligerence.

But Trump has no interest in such matters, and he has driven off or stopped his ears to the advisers who might explain them. He wallows in his ignorance and his prejudices, alone in the White House. Ukraine, and all other nations that used to depend on the U.S., are on their own.

Jackson Diehl is deputy editorial page editor of The Washington Post.

# Looking at the news

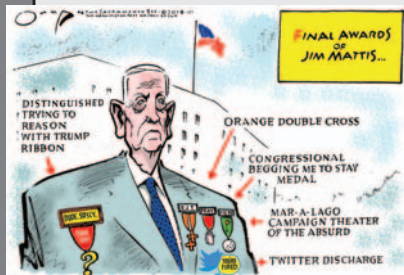
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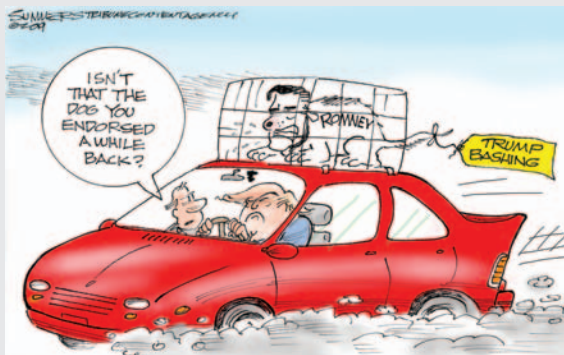
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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Hawk swoops in for bargains, shuts store

**MS** NEW ALBANY — A north Mississippi store was shut down for 90 minutes after an unexpected shopper swooped in for some bargains.

The Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal reported that shoppers and employees were evacuated from a Walmart in New Albany on Wednesday after a red-tailed hawk entered the store and began flying around.

Union County Emergency Management Director Curt Clayton, who was contacted by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, downed the bird with a tranquilizer gun. He said the bird may have entered the store through large doors in the garden department.

The hawk was removed from the store and released unharmed.

## City to spend \$125K on traps to battle rats

**MI** WARREN — One Detroit-area community is digging deep in its pockets to battle rats.

Warren Mayor Jim Fouts said the city is spending \$125,000 on bait traps along the fence lines of Interstate 696. He worries that rats fleeing construction on the freeway will scurry into city neighborhoods.

Fouts said in a news release that the pounding and excavation causes rats to seek shelter, food and water elsewhere.

A contractor has placed bait boxes and individual traps. They are checked every two weeks.

## Girl with brain tumor gets mermaid wish

**FL** BOCA RATON — A young Memphis girl who is battling brain cancer is having her dream realized in Florida, where she spent the day with mermaids.

Ta'lyyah Baldwin, 5, has been undergoing chemotherapy at St. Jude's Children's Hospital since being diagnosed in November 2017 with an inoperable brain tumor. Her family said the treatments leave her lethargic and cause her to have trouble walking.

Shanquindra Baldwin said all her daughter talks about is mermaids, so she contacted the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Sun Sentinel reported the organization sent the family to Florida, where the little girl spent Saturday at the Boca Beach Club with two women dressed as mermaids. They even had a pair of custom-fitted fins for Ta'lyyah to wear as she splashed around the pool.

## Sham marriage scheme earns sibling probation

**IA** WATERLOO — An eastern Iowa man has been turned over to immigration authorities and his sister sentenced to probation after they set up a sham marriage to keep the man in the United States.

The Waterloo-Cedar Falls

## THE CENSUS

**50**

The approximate number of firefighters in Maryland needed to put out a blaze after a box truck smashed into a building. The Carroll County Times reported that no one was hurt in the crash, which happened about 1 a.m. Saturday when the 26-foot truck hit the building in Westminster that's used for storage. In addition to 50 firefighters, as many as 20 pieces of equipment were used. Robin Stansbury, a spokesman for Reese Volunteer Fire Co., said it took more than an hour to get the fire under control.



ELLEN O'NAN, THE PADUCAH (Ky.) SUN/PA

## Taking a chance

Chance Lincoln, 5, makes his way across the monkey bars at The Pat & Jim Brockenborough Rotary Health Park in Paducah, Ky., on Saturday.

Courier reported that Selmir Salkanovic, 27, of Waterloo, was accused of marrying a U.S. citizen purely to obtain an upgraded immigration status after he overstayed a tourism visa.

His sister, Sanela Dedac, was accused of paying off an unidentified American woman to be the bride in the fake marriage. The siblings pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit marriage fraud.

Dedic allegedly offered to pay the woman \$5,000 and gave her a Ford Taurus.

## Woman filming attack killed by assailant

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — A woman who witnessed a man beating a woman on a sidewalk in San Francisco was fatally stabbed by the suspect after

she started recording him on her cellphone.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that Veronica Soliz, 61, had walked outside her building when she saw the attack and called police. Soliz's ex-husband, Jack Schwindler, told the newspaper she then followed the assailant and was recording him with her cellphone when the man turned on her and stabbed her in the head Wednesday. She died after being



rushed to a hospital.

Police arrested Arthur Finch, 49. He was charged with murder, attempted murder, three counts of assault with a deadly weapon, domestic violence and other charges.

## Girl, 4, dies after being hit by officer's SUV

**MO** COLUMBIA — The Missouri State Patrol is investigating the death of a 4-year-old girl who was struck by an SUV driven by a Columbia police officer.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reported that the incident happened Friday afternoon at Battle High School when an officer drove on a sidewalk to observe students as they departed. The state patrol said the officer's SUV hit Gabriella Curry as she walked on the sidewalk. Gabriella died at a nearby hospital.

Columbia city spokesman Steve Sapp said the girl was at the high school because both her parents drive school buses and she was riding with one of them. Sapp said it's not immediately clear when or why the girl left the bus.

## Skier dies, 4 others rescued after avalanche

**CO** DENVER — A skier died in an avalanche in the San Juan Mountains in southwest Colorado.

Ouray County Sheriff Dominic Mattivi said the victim was part of a group of five skiers who were skiing on Red Mountain Pass in the backcountry when the avalanche occurred Saturday. The other four skiers were rescued.

Mattivi told The Denver Post that it's the first avalanche that he can remember in that part of the mountain range.

## 11 more felony charges for man in chase case

**MS** COLUMBUS — A man who led police on a chase through parts of Alabama and Mississippi last week has been charged with 11 more felonies in Mississippi.

Local news outlets reported that Lowndes County, Miss., investigators filed the charges against Jacob Ray Conn, 25, of Caledonia, after his capture Dec. 31 near Vernon, Ala.

Investigators have charged Conn with three building and one vehicle arson, three burglaries and three motor vehicle thefts, mostly associated with incidents at a Columbus scrapyard on Dec. 30 and 31. He's also charged with fleeing law enforcement.

In Monroe County, Miss., Conn faced charges of felony fleeing from law enforcement, assault on a police officer and third-degree driving under the influence.

From wire reports



## FACES

# Surprises rock Golden Globes

## 'Bohemian Rhapsody' beats out 'A Star Is Born'; Glenn Close shocks heavy favorite Lady Gaga

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

Thunderbolt and lightning rocked the 76th Golden Globes where a string of upsets culminated with the Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" winning best picture, drama, over another movie about musicians: Bradley Cooper's much more heavily favored "A Star Is Born."

"A Star Is Born" came into Sunday's ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., as the presumed heavyweight and Oscar favorite. But Cooper's remake went home with just one award, for the song "Shallow." Instead, the night's final two awards went to "Bohemian Rhapsody" — the popular but poorly reviewed drama about Queen's frontman, a movie that wrapped after jettisoning its director, Bryan Singer — and best actor-winner Rami Malek for his full-bodied, prosthetic-teeth-aided performance as Mercury.

"Thank you to Freddie Mercury for giving me the joy of a lifetime," said Malek. "This is for you, gorgeous."

Few nominees were considered more of a sure thing than Lady Gaga as best actress in a drama. But Glenn Close pulled off the shocker in that category, too, for her performance in "The Wife," as the spouse of a Nobel Prize-winning author.

It's Close's second Globe in 14 nods. She's never won an Oscar.

A year after Oprah Winfrey's fiery anti-Donald Trump speech at the Globes, politics were largely absent from the ceremony before Christian Bale took the stage for winning best actor in a musical or comedy for his lead performance in Adam McKay's "Vice." He thanked the antichrist.

What do you think? Mitch McConnell never joked the Welsh-born actor, referring to the Senate's majority leader. "Thank you to Satan for giving me inspiration for this role."



Close



JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP

Lady Gaga didn't win an acting Globe, but she and (from left) Anthony Rossomando, Andrew Wyatt (obscured) and Mark Ronson did win for best original song, motion picture for "Shallow" from "A Star Is Born." The diamond necklace Gaga wore was custom-made for the occasion and worth \$5 million.

Co-hosts Sandra Oh and Andy Samberg opened the Globes, put on by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, on a note of congeniality, including a mock roast of attendees and a string of jokes that playfully critiqued Hollywood.

But Oh, who later also won for her performance on the drama series "Killing Eve," closed their opening monologue on a serious note explaining why she was hosting.

"I wanted to be here to look out at this audience and witness this moment of change," said Oh, tearing up. "Right now, this moment is real. Trust me, this is real. Because I see you. And I see you. All of these faces of change. And now, so will everyone else."

Some of those faces Oh alluded to won. Mahershala Ali won best supporting actor for "Green Book." Peter Dinklage's interracial road trip through the early '60s Deep South has struggled to catch on at the box office while coming under harsh criticism for relying on racial tropes. It won best film, comedy or musical, and best screenplay.

As expected, Lady Gaga, Mark Ronson, Anthony Rossomando and Andrew Wyatt won



PAUL DRINKWATER, NBC/AP

Rami Malek accepts the award for best actor in a motion picture drama for his role as Freddie Mercury in "Bohemian Rhapsody" during the Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Sunday night.

best song for the tune from "A Star Is Born."

Netflix won numerous awards for the series "The Kominsky Method," which won both best actor in a comedy series for Michael Douglas and for best comedy series.

Olivia Colman won best actress in a comedy/musical for her Queen Anne in the royal romp "The Favourite."

"Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" won for best animated film. Ryan Murphy's "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story" won for both best limited series and Darren Criss' lead performance.

For its sixth and final season, FX's "The Americans" took best drama series over shows like Amazon's conspiracy thriller "Homingame" and Oh's own "Killing Eve."

## Golden Globe winners Film

**Drama:** "Bohemian Rhapsody"  
**Actress, Drama:** Glenn Close, "The Wife"  
**Actor, Drama:** Rami Malek, "Bohemian Rhapsody"  
**Comedy or Musical:** "Green Book"  
**Actor, Comedy or Musical:** Christian Bale, "Vice"  
**Actress, Comedy or Musical:** Olivia Colman, "The Favourite"  
**Actress, Supporting Role:** Regina King, "If Beale Street Could Talk"  
**Actor, Supporting Role:** Mahershala Ali, "Green Book"  
**Foreign Language Film:** "Roma"  
**Best Director:** Alfonso Cuarón, "Roma"  
**Screenplay:** Nick Vallelonga, Brian Koppelman, Peter Farrelly, "Green Book"  
**Animated:** "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse"  
**Original Score:** Justin Hurwitz, "First Man"  
**Original Song:** "Shallow," "A Star Is Born"

## Television

**Drama:** "The Americans"  
**Actress, Drama:** Sandra Oh, "Killing Eve"  
**Actor, Drama:** Richard Madden, "Bodyguard"  
**Musical or Comedy:** "The Kominsky Method"  
**Actress, Musical or Comedy:** Rachel Brosnahan, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"  
**Actor, Musical or Comedy:** Michael Douglas, "The Kominsky Method"  
**Limited Series or Movie Made for Television:** "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"  
**Actress, Limited Series or Movie Made for Television:** Patricia Arquette, "Escape at Dannemora"  
**Actor, Limited Series or Movie Made for Television:** Darren Criss, "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"  
**Actress, Supporting Role, Limited Series or Movie Made for Television:** Patricia Clarkson, "Sharp Objects"  
**Actor, Supporting Role, Limited Series or Movie Made for Television:** Ben Whishaw, "A Very English Scandal"  
From The Associated Press

# Study finds 'radical underrepresentation' for women in film

From wire reports

Despite widespread attention and protest over gender inequality in film, a new study finds that the number of female directors in the top 250 domestic grossing films last year dipped to 8 percent.

That was down 3 percentage points from 2017, according to the 21st annual Celluloid Ceiling report released Jan. 3 by the Center for the Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University. It was even below the 10 percent level achieved 20 years earlier in 1998.

Researchers found slight gains for women in other roles. In 2018, women comprised 20 percent of all directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors and cinematographers in the top 250 films. That's up 2 percentage points from 2017.

The study's author, Martha Lauzen, the executive director of San Diego State's center, said such modest gains behind the camera, particularly in the director's chair, reveal an industry resistant to changing long-term gender inequity.

The study provides no evidence that the cinematic film industry has experienced the profound positive shift predicted

by so many industry observers over the last year," Lauzen said.

"This radical underrepresentation is unlikely to be remedied by the voluntary efforts of a few individuals or a single studio. Without a large-scale effort mounted by the major players — the studios, talent agencies, guilds and associations — we are unlikely to see meaningful change. The distance from 8 percent to some semblance of parity is simply too vast."

The largest gains, according to researchers, were among writers (16 percent, up 5 percentage points from 2017) and producers (21 percent, also up 5 percentage points from 2017).

## 'Aquaman' continues reign; 'Escape Room' debuts at No. 2

"Aquaman" is still the champ at the box office three weeks in, but the high-concept thriller "Escape Room" also drew some substantial crowds in its debut weekend.

Warner Bros. on Sunday says that "Aquaman" has added an estimated \$30.7 million, bringing its domestic grosses to nearly \$260 million. The DC comics film

starring Jason Momoa has had a tidal wave of successes internationally too.

Worldwide it has made \$940.7 million, making it by far the highest-grossing film in the modern DC Extended Universe slate (No. 2 is "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" with \$873.6 million).

Sony's PG-13 rated thriller "Escape Room" managed to sneak into second place in its first weekend in theaters generating an estimated \$18 million in ticket sales — double its production budget.

Disney's "Mary Poppins Returns" landed in third place in its third weekend with \$15.8 million. The nostalgic musical earned \$138.7 million domestically.

"Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" took fourth place with \$13 million, and "Bumblebee" rounded out the top five with \$12.8 million.

## Film critics choose 'The Rider' as best picture of 2018

The National Society of Film Critics on Jan. 5 chose Chloe Zhao's low-budget debut feature "The Rider" as best picture of 2018.

Director Alfonso Cuarón's black-and-white "Roma," a period piece set in modern Mexico won the most awards — as best picture runner-up, best foreign-language film and for best cinematography. Cuarón also got the award for best director.

Olivia Colman was named best actress for "The Favourite," and Ethan Hawke was best actor for "First Reformed." Best supporting actor went to Steve Yeun of "Burn-ing," while Jesse Plemons of "If Beale Street Could Talk" was best supporting actress.

## Other news

■ Britney Spears is putting her planned Las Vegas residency on hold to focus on her father's recovery from a life-threatening illness. The pop superstar announced Jan. 4 that she is going on an indefinite work hiatus. Her residency was scheduled to kick off in February at Park Theater at the Park MGM casino-resort.

■ Longtime producer Susan Zirinsky is replacing CBS News President David Rhodes in March, becoming the first woman to lead the storied division in the network's history.

# SHIFTING GEARS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VOLKSWAGEN/TNS

## The next generation | Redesigned 2019 VW Jetta sedan is sleek and sporty

By EMMA JAYNE WILLIAMS  
Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

**I**ntroduced in 1979, the Volkswagen Jetta compact sedan moves into its seventh generation for 2019, completely redesigned with a new chassis and all-new bodywork.

The first generation was boxy with sharp angles, but the design has softened through the years. However, the latest model retains the VW hallmark of classic precision. Bauhaus design inspiration puts utility first and avoids excessive ornamentation, according to the German automaker.

The new Jetta is now based on the award-winning MQB platform (shared modular design construction of VW's transverse, front-engine, front-wheel-drive vehicles), with bolder design, more interior space, innovative technology and a lower base price.

Jetta is available in S (\$18,545, more new technology and features, lower price), SE (\$22,155, upscale driver-assistance and convenience systems), R-Line (\$22,995, first for Jetta, sporty styling), SEL (\$24,415, innovative Digital Cockpit, and 10-color ambient lighting), and SEL Premium (\$26,945, luxury touches such as navigation and leather seats with front ventilation).

All Jettas come with the Volkswagen People First Warranty — six years or 72,000 miles, bumper-to-bumper, transferable to subsequent owners.

A 1.4-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine producing 147 horsepower is mated to either a six-speed manual or eight-speed automatic transmission with Tiptronic and Sport mode.

The all-new eight-speed automatic offers two additional gears over its predecessor, while weighing the same. The shorter first



The redesigned interior of the Jetta was engineered for more comfort.

gear provides faster acceleration. Both manual and automatic configurations are EPA rated for 30 mpg city/40 highway/34 combined. I managed 36.3 mpg, driving mostly on the highway.

Standard Start/Stop technology on the automatic-transmission models promotes fuel economy by stopping the engine during idling, then restarting seamlessly when the brake pedal is released.

Jetta now has a unique light "signature," with all-new standard LED daytime running lights, which, along with the standard automatic LED headlights, combine with the trapezoidal grille for a wide front graphic, creating a lower, sleeker appearance.

The Modular Transverse Matrix (MQB, Modularer Querbaukasten in German) allowed designers to reshape the body for a longer wheelbase, wider track and shorter front overhang. Jetta is also wider and taller, adding up to more interior space.

This architecture incorporates unitary construction with two solid-mounted sub-

frames and bolt-on front fenders. The body and chassis feature a large percentage of ultra-high-strength, hot-formed steel, allowing thinner and lighter parts without loss of strength.

The redesigned interior was engineered for more comfort, and has more headroom, knee room and shoulder room than the previous Jetta. The makeover includes new fabric colors and designs for the seats, including an ergonomically optimized backrest release, and decorative door and dash trim.

Passengers were comfortable with 38.5 inches of headroom in the front and 37.2 inches in the rear; and 41.1 inches of legroom in the front, 37.4 inches in the rear.

Form follows function in the driver-focused cockpit, with the instrument panel and infotainment system arranged in an easy-to-read horizontal orientation. Infotainment and dual-zone automatic (SE trim and above) climate controls are on the center console, which is angled toward the driver.

A multi-function trip computer is between the large speedometer and tachometer, showing fuel consumption, trip distance, Bluetooth status and navigation directions (if equipped; my Jetta was not). The panoramic glass tilt/slide sunroof is standard on SE trims and above.

All 2019 Jettas have a multi-function steering wheel, leather-wrapped on SE and above. The heated driver's seat is manually adjustable, including height. The passenger's seat is manually adjustable four ways. Split-folding 60/40 rear seats are standard.

Standard Driver Personalization can store up to four settings to customize drive-mode selection, climate control, ambient lighting color, driver's seat memory, driver-assistance system preferences,

radio presets, Volkswagen Digital Cockpit arrangement, navigation view and more, depending on the trim.

Volkswagen's innovative MIB II infotainment system features a 6.5-inch capacitive-touch sensor, which doesn't require pressure and enables gesture control such as swiping and pinch-zooming. Car-Net is standard with App-Connect to run select smartphone/smartwatch apps through Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and Mirror-Link, all free of charge.

There is a more-rigid body than on the previous Jetta, creating a safer vehicle with a laser-seam-welded body shell; crash-optimized, energy-absorbing front end; and heat-formed steel center pillars.

Seat-mounted side air bags protect the front passengers, while side-curtain air bags protect front and rear outboard seats.

Jetta is the only vehicle in its class with standard Automatic Post-Collision Braking, designed to apply the brakes when air bags inflate to help bring the car to a stop after a collision. Intelligent Crash Response reacts to an air bag deployment by turning off the fuel pump, unlocking the doors and activating the hazard lights.

My Jetta had Forward Collision Warning and Autonomous Emergency Braking (Front Assist) to warn of impending frontal collision and assist in applying the brakes and a Blind Spot Monitor with Rear Traffic Alert to warn of vehicles approaching from the rear in traffic or from the side when reversing, with a range of about 65 feet (RTA) will apply the brakes to mitigate or avoid a collision.

The redesigned Jetta is sleek and sporty, with Volkswagen's clean, timeless design DNA. The most technologically advanced Jetta ever is still fun to drive and even better looking and more comfortable.

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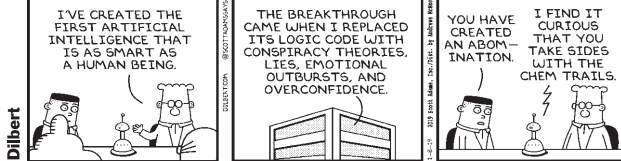
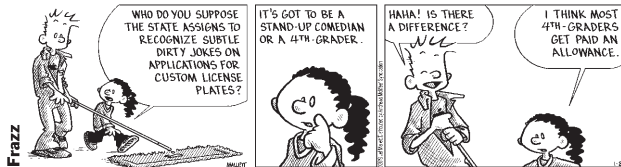
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## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
			18					19	20			
21	22	23					24					
25					26	27				28	29	
30					31					32		
33			34							35		
			36					37				
38	39				40	41						
42				43	44					45	46	47
48					49					50		
51				52						53		

### ACROSS

- 1 Seize
- 5 Butte's kin
- 9 Cardinal cap letters
- 12 "Othello" villain
- 13 In — (lined up)
- 14 Weeding tool
- 15 Reality show for aspiring entrepreneurs
- 17 PC key
- 18 Minor quibbles
- 19 Hospital sections
- 21 Type of beam
- 24 Pack (down)
- 25 Reverberate
- 26 Rubber wedge, say
- 30 Small battery
- 31 All better
- 32 Actress Thurman
- 33 Hoedown musicians
- 35 Author Harte
- 36 Seeing things
- 37 Tubular pasta
- 38 Tribal emblem
- 40 Coffee, slangily
- 42 Mess up
- 43 Temporary
- 48 GPS suggestion
- 49 Last write-up
- 50 Despot
- 51 British verb ending
- 52 Zilch
- 53 Bigfoot's cousin

### DOWN

- 1 USO audience
- 2 Fan's cry
- 3 Khan title
- 4 Third-largest island
- 5 "The Martian" actor Damon
- 6 Historic periods
- 7 Junior
- 8 Clumsy
- 9 Mountain road feature
- 10 Snitched
- 11 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 16 White wine cocktail
- 20 Mornings (Abbr.)
- 21 Piece of lettuce scan
- 22 Exotic berry
- 23 Elm, for one
- 24 Low digits
- 26 Union payment
- 27 Bruins legend
- 28 Portent
- 29 Canape spread
- 31 South Carolina university
- 34 Decorate
- 35 Actor Warren
- 37 Beetle Bailey's rank (Abbr.)
- 38 Garr of "Tootsie"
- 39 Scraps
- 40 Unite
- 41 Museo display
- 44 Showtime rival
- 45 Jargon suffix
- 46 Squealer
- 47 Hosp.

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	L	S	O	A	B	S	A	N	N	E
P	O	P	P	E	D	U	P	S	O	I
B	O	A	T	R	A	C	E	S	U	L
				I	A	M	C	R	I	S
A	T	H	O	S		B	I	A	S	
R	O	A	N		B	O	A	T	I	N
M	M	L		O	R	A	L	S	E	A
	B	O	A	T	E	R	S		T	A
				P	T	A	S		W	I
P	E	A	P	O	D		P	A	L	
I	T	A	L		B	O	A	T	S	H
E	T	R	E		O	L	D	T	I	M
S	A	P	S		X	E	S		T	O

### 1-8

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H D O R X E V X R H K Y H Y B D Z E

U G V D O E X J ' R A H H N R F G Z F Z E X

J H S N J H S J F H A X K Z N X

U H Y V X R : R Y B E V H B R Q X H E Q X .

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals L




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Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Vol. 1—No. 241

1 Fr.

1 Fr.

Sunday, March 25, 1945

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## Tennis

## ASB Classic

**Sunday**  
At ASB Bank Tennis Centre  
Auckland, New Zealand  
Purse: \$225,750 (Intl)  
Surface: Hard-Outdoor  
Singles

Julia Georges (2, Germany) def. Bianca Andreescu, Canada, 6-2, 6-5, 6-1.

## Championship

Eugenie Bouchard, Canada, and Sofia Kenin, United States, def. Paige Marozs, New Zealand, and Taylor Townsend, United States, 1-6, 6-1, 10-7.

## Sydney International

At Olympic Park Tennis Centre  
Sydney  
Purse: Men, \$577,800 (ATP250);  
Women, \$823,000 (Premier)  
Surface: Hard-Outdoor  
Singles

## First Round

Martin Klizan, Slovakia, def. Alexei Popyrin, Australia, 7-6(4), 6-4, 7-6(5).

Jordan Thompson, Australia, def. Adrian Panarino, France, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

## Doubles

Ken and Neal Skupski, Britain, def. Nikola Pietrangeli, Canada, and Alexander Peya (3), Austria, 6-3, 6-4.

## Brisbane International

**Sunday**  
At Queensland Tennis Centre  
Brisbane, Australia  
Purse: Men, \$501,345 (ATP250); Women, \$1 million (Premier)  
Surface: Hard-Outdoor  
Singles

## First Round

Kei Nishikori (2, Japan) def. Daniil Medvedev (4, Russia), 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

## Championship

Karolina Pliskova (5, Czech Republic), def. Lesia Tsurenko, Ukraine, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

## Doubles

Marcus Daniell, New Zealand, and Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands, def. Ramez Ramez, United States, and Joe Salisbury (4, Britain), 6-4, 7-6(6).

## Qatar Open

The Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex  
Doha, Qatar  
Surface: Hard-Outdoor  
Singles

## Final

Roberto Bautista Agut (7, Spain), def. Tomas Berdych, Czech Republic, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

## Maharashtra Open

**Saturday**  
At Mahalunge Balewadi Complex  
Pune, India  
Surface: Hard-Outdoor  
Singles

Kevin Andrusic (7, South Africa), def. Ivo Karlovic, Croatia, 7-6(4), 6-7(2), 7-6(5).

## Doubles

Rohan Bopanna, India, and Divij Sharan (1, India), def. Luke Bambridge and Jonny O'Mara, Britain, 6-3, 6-4.

## Boxing

## Fight schedule

Jan. 13

At Los Angeles, Jose Uzcategui vs. Caelen Palomares. At Zetatecui vs. Irfan middleweight title. Brandu Aguerro vs. Moise Flores, 10, Featherweights; Ahmed Ibrahim vs. Allan Green, 10, light heavyweight; Ivan Redekach vs. Nicolas Altieri, 10, super featherweight.

Jan. 18

At Verona, N.Y., Bryant Jennings vs. Oscar Rivas, 12, for Jennings' IBF International WBO-NABO heavyweight titles; Jason Sosa vs. Marcos Delgado, 10, super featherweights; Carlos Adamides vs. Nino, 10, super featherweights.

At Madison Square Garden Theater, New York, Anthony Joshua vs. Arthur Akavov, 12, for Andrade's WBO middleweight title; Jorge Linares vs. Pablo Carrasco, 12, for Linares' WBC International Silver super lightweight title; Chris Algieri vs. Daniel Gonzalez, 10, welterweights.

## College basketball

## Men's AP Top 25 fared

Sunday

1. Duke (12-1) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Tuesday.  
2. Michigan (15-0) beat No. 21 Indiana 74-63. Next: at Illinois, Thursday.  
3. Tennessee (12-2) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Tuesday.  
4. Virginia (13-0) did not play. Next: at Boston College, Wednesday.  
5. Kansas (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. TCU, Wednesday.  
6. Nevada (14-1) did not play. Next: vs. San Jose State, Wednesday.  
7. Gonzaga (14-2) did not play. Next: vs. Pacific, Thursday.  
8. Michigan State (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. Purdue, Tuesday.  
9. Florida State (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. Miami, Wednesday.  
10. Virginia Tech (13-1) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech, Wednesday.  
11. Kansas Tech (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 23 Oklahoma, Tuesday.  
12. Auburn (11-2) did not play. Next: at Mississippi, Wednesday.  
13. Kentucky (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois, Thursday.  
14. Ohio State (12-2) did not play. Next: at Rutgers, Wednesday.  
15. North Carolina (11-3) did not play. Next: at No. 18 N.C. State, Tuesday.  
16. Marquette (12-3) beat Wake 70-52. Next: at Creighton, Wednesday.  
17. Mississippi State (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 24 South Carolina, Thursday.  
18. North Carolina State (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 15 North Carolina, Thursday.  
19. Houston (15-0) beat Memphis 90-77. Next: at Temple, Wednesday.  
20. Buffalo (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. Toledo, Tuesday.  
21. Indiana (12-3) lost to No. 2 Michigan 74-63. Next: at Maryland, Friday.  
22. Wisconsin (11-2) beat Penn State 71-52. Next: vs. Purdue, Friday.  
23. Oklahoma (12-4) did not play. Next: at No. 11 Texas Tech, Wednesday.  
24. Nebraska (11-4) lost to No. 25 Iowa 93-84. Next: vs. Penn State, Thursday.  
25. Texas (12-3) beat No. 24 Wake 93-84. Next: at Northwestern, Wednesday.

## Sunday's men's scores

EAST

Colgate 73, American U. 69  
George Washington 70, Saint Joseph's 56  
Lehigh 99, Loyola (Md.) 72  
WV, Holy Cross 70  
Wisconsin 71, Penn St. 52

SOUTH

George Mason 68, St. Bonaventure 53  
Louisville 90, Miami 73  
Dayton 72, Richmond 84  
DePaul 75, Seton Hall 64  
Iowa 93, Nebraska 84  
Marquette 70, Xavier 52  
Michigan 74, Indiana 74  
N. Dakota St., 65, Dickinson State 53  
Northwestern 68, Illinois 66  
S. Dakota St., 79, South Dakota 61  
Saint Louis 60, Rhode Island 53  
Temple 89, Wichita St., 81, OT

SOUTHWEST

Houston 90, Memphis 77  
Southern Cal 77, Stanford 66

## Women's AP Top 25 fared

Sunday

1. UConn (12-1) beat Houston 81-61. Next: Cincinnati, Wednesday.  
2. Notre Dame (14-1) beat Duke 73-51. Next: vs. No. 3 Louisville, Thursday.  
3. Louisville (14-0) beat Duke 73-51. Next: at No. 2 Notre Dame, Thursday.  
4. Stanford (13-1) did not play. Next: at Nebraska, Tuesday.  
5. Oregon (13-1) beat Washington State 98-58. Next: at Southern Cal, Friday.  
6. Stanford (12-1) beat UCLA 86-80. Next: at No. 22 Arizona State, Friday.  
7. Baylor (12-1) beat Washington 86-64. Next: vs. Georgia, Thursday.  
8. Baylor (11-1) beat Texas Tech 73-56.

## Deals

## Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL

**American League**  
HOUSTON ASTROS — Traded INF J.D. Davis and pitcher Randy Boruck to the N.Y. Mets for OF Ross Adkins, LF Luis Santana and C Scott Maden.

National League

NEW YORK METS — Traded C Kevin Pillar to the Cardinals for RHP Wade Lockett and INF Sam Hogarty.  
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Named Jeff Banister as third base coach, suspended all operations.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association  
ATLANTA HAWKS — Recalled F Moritz Wagner from NBA G League affiliate MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES — Fired coach Tom Thibodeau. Name assistant

Next: vs. Kansas State, Wednesday.  
9. N.C. State (15-0) beat Boston College 85-69. Next: vs. Pittsburgh, Thursday.  
10. Tennessee (12-2) lost to Missouri 66-64. Next: vs. No. 16 Kentucky, Thursday.  
11. Oregon State (12-2) beat Washington 78-67. Next: at UCLA, Friday.  
12. Minnesota (12-2) lost to Illinois 66-62. Next: at No. 15 Michigan State, Wednesday.  
13. Texas (12-2) beat West Virginia 70-58. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Wednesday.  
14. Syracuse (12-2) beat Virginia Tech 75-73. OT. Next: vs. North Carolina, Sunday.  
15. Michigan State (11-3) lost to Indiana 68-64. Next: vs. No. 12 Minnesota, Wednesday.  
16. Kentucky (14-2) lost to No. 7 Mississippi State 86-71. Next: at No. 10 Tennessee, Thursday.  
17. Gonzaga (15-1) did not play. Next: vs. Portland, Saturday.  
18. California (10-3) beat Southern Cal 66-59. Next: at Arizona, Friday.  
19. Iowa (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. Minnesota, Monday.  
20. Marquette (12-3) did not play. Next: at Villanova, Friday.  
21. Texas A&M (11-4) lost to LSU 63-52. Next: at Vanderbilt, Thursday.  
22. Arizona (12-2) beat Colorado 76-70. Next: at No. 6 Stanford, Friday.  
23. South Carolina (10-4) beat Alabama 62-59. Next: vs. Florida, Thursday.  
24. DePaul (10-5) did not play. Next: at Georgetown, Friday.  
25. Wake Forest (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. TCU, Wednesday.

## Sunday's women's scores

EAST

American U. 76, Colgate 57  
68, Loyola (Md.) 60  
Boston U. 70, Bucknell 62  
U. of Va., Hofstra 64  
52. Next: vs. Purdue 51, Drexel 35  
Lafayette 73, Holy Cross 63  
Lehigh 56, Navy 38  
23. St. Bonaventure 69, Northeastern 88, William & Mary 74  
Creighton 55, Villanova 61  
Quinnipiac 90, St. Peter's 45  
Rider 62, Fairfield 59  
18. Rutgers 74, Penn St. 61  
Sierra 59, Iona 47  
Texas 67, West Virginia 58  
DePaul 56, Delaware 48  
UMass 70, Saint Louis 66

SOUTH

Arkansas 85, Mississippi 55  
Alabama 64, Florida 56  
15. Clemson 71, Virginia 65  
Columbia 72, Mercer 68  
Davidson 67, George Mason 59  
North Carolina 64, North Carolina 63  
Georgia 71, Vanderbilt 64  
LSU 63, Texas A&M 52  
24. Duke 51  
Miami 72, Wake Forest 57  
Mississippi St. 86, Kentucky 71  
Missouri 66, Tennessee 64  
North Greenville 78, Furman 74  
Notre Dame 76, Georgia Tech 55  
South Carolina 62, Alabama 59  
Syracuse 75, Virginia Tech 73

MIDWEST

Buiter 66, St. John's 45  
Cincinnati 69, SMU 57  
Creighton 65, Georgetown 38  
Drake 62, Illinois 64  
58. Over the Phoenix 22  
Indiana 68, Michigan 64  
Indiana St. 61, S. Illinois 58  
25. Iowa 68, Valparaiso 54  
Missouri St. 68, Evansville 66  
N. Iowa 81, Bradley 76  
Oxyana 68, Omaha 80, N. Dakota St. 61  
South Dakota 105, S. Dakota St. 98  
Xavier 63, St. Louis 56

SOUTHWEST

Baylor 73, Texas Tech 56  
5. Oregon 76, Gonzaga 66  
UConn 81, Houston 61  
FAIR PLAY  
Arizona St. 70, Colorado 70  
California 66, Southern Cal 59  
20. Washington 73, Oregon St. 58  
Oregon St. 78, Washington 67  
Stanford 86, UCLA 80  
Utah 80, Arizona 64

coach Ryan Saunders interim head coach for the remainder of the season.

HOCKEY

**National Hockey League**  
ANHEIM DUCKS — Assigned C Ben Street and DS Korbinian Holzer and Jake St. Louis to AHL.

**CALGARY FLAMES** — Assigned G Jon Gillies and F Dillon Dubé to Stockton.

**NEW JERSEY DEVILS** — Assigned D Egor Yakovlev to Birmingham (AHL). Recalled D John Marino from AHL.

**SAN JOSE SHARKS** — Signed F Lukas Radl to a one-year contract extension through the 2019-20 season.  
COLLEGE  
BUFFALO — On Tye Jackson will enter the NFL Draft.

## Golf

## Tournament of Champions

PGA TOUR

At Plantation Course at Kapalua  
Kapalua, Hawaii  
Purse: \$6.5 million  
Yardage: 7,838 P-33  
Final

X. Shoopfield, \$793,000 67-67-68-68-269 23  
G. Stauf, \$793,000 67-67-68-68-270 22  
Justin Thomas, \$475,000 67-72-70-65-274 18  
D. Johnson, \$333 67-67-68-68-274 15  
M. Leishman, \$305,333 68-70-68-67-271 15  
14. S. McElroy, \$305 67-68-68-68-271 15  
B. Chikan, \$218,000 68-68-67-71-278 14  
P. Kizim, \$218,000 67-71-68-67-278 13  
J. Rahm, \$211,000 70-71-69-69-279 13  
W. Simpson, \$191,000 70-72-72-65-279 13  
C. C. Chapp, \$150 71-68-67-67-280 12  
Kevin Tway, \$152,500 66-71-72-70-280 12  
S. Hoge, \$147,000 67-68-67-67-280 12  
A. P. Howell III, \$132,000 74-69-68-69-282 10  
A. P. Howell, \$132,000 69-72-70-70-282 10  
Paul Casey, \$131,000 71-69-71-68-283 9  
Ian Poulter, \$102,000 71-69-71-71-284 9  
B. Granger, \$92,333 73-71-69-70-286 6  
Matt Kuchar, \$92,333 72-73-69-69-286 6  
S. Snead, \$92,500 72-72-69-69-286 6  
Andrew Landrum, \$82,333 72-71-67-71-287 5  
S. Hoge, \$82,500 75-69-71-67-287 5  
Brooks Koepka, \$78,000 70-70-69-78-288 4  
B. Hoge, \$78,000 70-70-69-78-288 4  
Patrick Reed, \$74,000 70-72-73-75-290 2  
B. Hoge, \$74,000 70-72-73-75-291 1  
F. M. Hoge, \$74,000 70-72-73-75-291 1  
T. Potter, Jr., \$68,250 71-73-71-72-291 1  
A. P. Howell, \$68,250 71-73-71-72-291 1  
B. Hoge, \$68,250 71-73-71-72-291 1  
M. K. Wilson, \$65,500 71-72-70-73-296 4  
S. K. Wilson, \$65,500 71-72-70-73-296 4

## AP spotlight

Jan. 8

1944 — Toronto's Babe Pratt becomes the first NFL defensive end to lead the slits in a game as the Maple Leafs pound the Boston Bruins 12-3 at the Maple Leaf Gardens.

1947 — Howie Meeker sets an NHL single-game record for goals by a rookie with five scores. Five other rookies score 10 wins over the Chicago Blackhawks at Maple Leaf Gardens.

1959 — Georgia Tech ends Kentucky's 129-game home basketball winning streak with a 99-58 win at Memorial Coliseum.

1972 — The NCAA announces freshmen will be eligible to play in college football and basketball starting in the fall.

1972 — David Vaughn of Oral Roberts grabs 34 rebounds in a 123-95 win over Brandeis.

1994 — Mark Mosley's 25-yard field goal with 40 seconds remaining gives the Washington Redskins a 24-21 win over the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC Championship game.

1995 — The Executive Committee of the NCAA votes to expand the championship basketball field to 64 teams starting in 1995.

1994 — Dino Ciccarelli becomes the 19th NHL player to score 500 career goals in Detroit Red Wings' 6-3 victory over the Los Angeles Kings.

2003 Utah — Mark Jackson becomes the third NBA player to reach 10,000 career assists in the Jazz's 99-93 win over the Phoenix. Jackson's 10,000th career assist leads and teammate John Stockton (15,425) and Magic Johnson (15,425).

2007 — Second-ranked Florida dominates Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith and Ohio State in an NFL first. The BCS National Championship Bowl, the BCS National Championship Bowl, the BCS National Championship Bowl.

2012 — The Seattle Seahawks start the defending Super Bowl champion New Orleans Saints 41-36 to open the NFL playoffs. Seattle, the defending Super Bowl winner with a losing record at 7-9, advances behind four touchdown passes by Matt Hasselbeck and a brilliant 67-yard run by Marshawn Lynch.

2012 — Denver's Tim Tebow connects with Demaryius Thomas on an electrifying 80-yard touchdown pass on the first play of overtime and the Broncos stun the Pittsburgh Steelers 29-27 in an NFL wild-card game. The play, the longest to end a game, is the longest in NFL history. The game is the longest ending to an overtime in NFL history.

2016 — Oakland's Khalil Mack makes history earning a selection at two positions on the 2015 Associated Press All-Pro list. In an NFL first, the 2015 Raiders defensive end and outside linebacker draws enough support from a panel of 60 media members who regularly cover the league to make the squad both offensive and defensive.

2018 — Alabama beats Georgia 26-23 in overtime to win its fifth national championship since 2009 under Nick Saban.

## US holds Cup prep in Europe

## By KEVIN TAXTER

Los Angeles Times

Jill Ellis is convinced the world is shrinking when it comes to women's soccer. And to prove it she has taken her national team to Europe, where it will begin ramping up preparations for this summer's Women's World Cup.

"Overall it's so different than it was even two World Cups ago in terms of just the depth and the talent and the level of players out there and the level of teams," Ellis, whose U.S. squad is the reigning champion and ranked No. 1 in the world, said of the global landscape in women's soccer. "Someone asked me this is going to be the hardest World Cup to win? Yeah. Every World Cup should be better than the one before."

The 26 players Ellis pulled into the first training camp of 2019 began arriving in Portugal over the weekend — forward Alex Morgan needed three flights to get there — and began practicing Monday. The team will then play friendlies with No. 3 France, the World Cup host, Jan. 19 in Le Havre and 12th-ranked Spain in Alicante on Jan. 22.

By adding her January camp in Europe for the first time and including exhibitions against two World Cup qualifiers, Ellis is hoping to challenge a team that hasn't lost since July 2017, going 18-0-2 last year.

"Finding ways to be successful against European teams in Europe is something every team in the World Cup will have to do to advance deep into the tournament. So this is an essential trip in our prep for the summer," Ellis said.

The teams the U.S. will play on its 17-day trip are among those that have improved the most since the last World Cup. France has reached at least the quarterfinals of the last seven major tournaments in which it has played. Spain, meanwhile, played in a World Cup for the first time four years ago and didn't win a game but made it to the quarterfinals of the 2017 Euros. And Spain's U-17 team won its World Cup last month.

The U.S. will also play eight games in the U.S. before the World Cup, half against teams ranked in the top 10. Included on that tour is an April 7 game with Belgium at Banc of California Stadium in Exposition Park.

"We recognize that we have formally entered a World Cup year," said Ellis, who must trim her team to 23 players by June. And with a deep, veteran roster and the youth quality among, it's unlikely more than a few positions are truly up for grabs.



## COLLEGE BASKETBALL/COLLEGE FOOTBALL/GOLF



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Michigan guard Charles Matthews dunks in the first half of Sunday's victory over Indiana.

## Roundup

# No. 2 Michigan improves to 15-0 by beating Indiana

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan got Indiana's best players in foul trouble in the opening minutes and took full advantage, building a cushion it used to stay undefeated.

Charles Matthews scored 16 of his 18 points in the first half to help the second-ranked Wolverines build a double-digit lead, and they went on to beat the 21st-ranked Hoosiers 74-63 Sunday. Michigan's Jordan Poole finished with 18 points, Xavier Simpson scored 12 and freshman reserve Brandon Johns had eight points and eight rebounds.

The Wolverines (15-0, 4-0 Big Ten) are a win away from matching their best start in school history.

"We're just worried about getting better," Poole said. "We rarely talk about our record."

Michigan joined No. 8 Michigan State as the two teams without a Big Ten loss four games into the 20-game conference schedule.

The Hoosiers (12-3, 3-1) had won seven straight since losing at Duke and their chances to extend the streak were hurt because their stars were forced to sit a lot.

Indiana's Juwan Morgan scored 25 points on 9-for-22 shooting and Romero Langford added 17 points while limited by foul trouble.

"When those two guys aren't on the floor, we're a different team offensively and defensively," Indiana coach Archie Miller said.

When Morgan and Langford

went to the bench with two fouls early in the first half, the Wolverines went on a 12-3 run in less than 3 minutes before the pair returned to the floor.

"We set the tone and we got their two big guys in foul trouble," Michigan coach John Beilein said. "They're tremendous. They're really tough to stop and they both sat about 20 minutes."

**No. 16 Marquette 70, Xavier 52:** Markus Howard scored 26 points, Sacar Anim had 20 and Marquette beat Xavier to remain unbeaten at home.

The Golden Eagles (12-3, 1-1) bounced back from an 89-69 loss at St. John's in their Big East opener on New Year's Day. They improved to 11-0 at the new Fiserv Forum.

Naji Marshall had 21 points for Xavier (9-7, 1-2).

**No. 19 Houston 90, Memphis 77:** Armoni Brooks had 22 points and hit six three-pointers and the host Cougars remained undefeated.

Nate Hinton added 19 points and nine rebounds, Corey Davis Jr. and Galen Robinson Jr. each had 11 points and DeJon Jarreau scored 10 points. Houston (15-0, 2-0 American) extended its home-winning streak to a nation-best 28 games. The Cougars shot 45 percent, including 50 percent in the second half, and hit 12 of 34 three-pointers.

**No. 22 Wisconsin 71, Penn State 52:** Ethan Happ had 22 points and eight rebounds and the visiting Badgers routed Penn

State to stop a two-game slide.

The struggling Nittany Lions were without coach Patrick Chambers, who was suspended for the game after shoving Penn State freshman guard Myles Dread during a timeout Thursday in a loss at Michigan. Chambers apologized and said he was just trying to get the best out of Dread.

Brad Davison added 14 points for Wisconsin (11-4, 3-1 Big Ten).

**No. 25 Iowa 93, No. 24 Nebraska 84:** Jordan Bohannon scored a season-high 25 points, Tyler Cook had 16 and the host Hawkeyes beat Nebraska, snapping a three-game losing streak to open Big Ten play.

Ryan Kriener added 14 points in his first career start for Iowa (12-3, 1-3), which shot 29-for-52 from the free throw line in holding off the Huskers (11-4, 1-3).

Isaac Copeland had 24 points to lead Nebraska.

**Navy 50, Holy Cross 48:** Hasan Abdullah scored 15 points, the last two coming on a floater from about 10 feet that rolled around the rim and dropped through with less than a second remaining that lifted the host Midshipmen over Holy Cross.

Abdullah grabbed the rebound of a Navy miss in the lane and dribbled to his right before rising up to flip in the game-winner with 0.6 seconds on the clock.

Abdullah also had nine rebounds, eight assists and two steals for the Midshipmen (5-8, 2-0 Patriot League).

## QB Young, Rocket highlight Hall class

By RALPH D. RUSSO

Associated Press

Texas quarterback Vince Young and Notre Dame speedster Raghbi Ismail have been selected for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame, along with 11 other players and two coaches.

Young was the Heisman Trophy runner-up and led the Longhorns to the 2005 national championship with a memorable performance in the Rose Bowl against Southern California. Ismail, better known as Rocket, was an electric receiver and kick returner for the Fighting Irish and the Heisman runner-up in 1990.

The rest of the players to be enshrined at the National Football Foundation's award banquet in December include Arkansas running back Darren McFadden, Oklahoma defensive back Rickey Dixon, John Carroll linebacker London Fletcher, Texas A&M defensive lineman Jacob Green, North Carolina State receiver Torry Holt, Arizona State quarterback Jake Plummer, USC defensive back Troy Polamalu, Wisconsin offensive tackle Joe Thomas, Michigan State running back Lorenzo White and Missis-

sippi linebacker Patrick Willis. Dennis Erickson, who coached Miami to two national championships, and Joe Taylor, who won 233 games at historically black colleges, were selected for induction as coaches.

Young was the first FBS player to pass for more than 3,000 yards and run for more than 1,000, leading Texas to an undefeated season in 2005. Against USC in the Rose Bowl, Young passed for 267 yards, ran for 200 and scrambled for a game-winning touchdown on fourth down with 19 seconds left in a 41-38 victory.

Ismail was part of Notre Dame's 1988 national championship team and had six return touchdowns in his career, including five on kick-offs. He is best remembered for taking two kicks back for touchdowns against Michigan in 1989.

McFadden was a two-time Heisman runner-up, coming in second behind Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith in 2006 and Florida quarterback Tim Tebow in 2007.

The Goodyear Blimp was also named an honorary member of the College Football Hall of Fame.

## Schauffele wins, ties Kapalua course record

By DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Xander Schauffele never had a better round in a more spectacular environment.

After holing out for two eagles, and closing with four birdies over his last five holes for an 11-under 62, he chose to wait inside the scoring trailer to see if it would be enough to beat Gary Woodland in the Sentry Tournament of Champions on Sunday.

The trailer was just behind the grandstands on the 18th hole. The television had a 10-second delay. He heard sighs. He heard radio traffic. About the time he figured out that he won, he saw Woodland's birdie putt to force a playoff slide by the right.

"So it was a bit strange," he said. "But the day was awesome."

Schauffele took another step toward joining the young elite in golf with his second victory this season, and fourth in the last 18 months. He already has two multiple-win seasons in his third year on the PGA Tour. He moved to No. 6 in the world.

"This is the stuff you dream about," Schauffele said. "But to actually pull it off, it feels awesome. I could see myself doing it, but it's hard to believe just sitting here and talking about it."

In all four of his victories, he had to rally on the final day. Kapalua presented the biggest deficit at five shots. He delivered a

record-tying round.

He started with a bogey and figured he had nothing to lose. Before long, he was in position to win. He ran off three straight birdies. He chipped in from the front of the green on the par-5 ninth for eagle. He holed a wedge from 107 yards for another eagle on No. 12. He took his first lead with back-to-back birdies on the 14th and 15th holes, both times coming close to chipping in for more eagles.

Tied with Woodland over the closing holes, Schauffele finished birdie-birdie for a 61 that tied the course record at Kapalua held by four other players.

"It was a crazy day," Schauffele said. "I knew it was going to be a birdie feed at the end. We kept our head down and made a run for it."

Woodland had a chance to force a playoff, but he hit his drive on the par-5 18th so far — 390 yards downhill but into a Kona wind — that he was between clubs. He tried to draw a hard 4-iron and left it out to the right, hit a pitch-and-run to 10 feet and missed the birdie putt.

It was a tough loss for Woodland. He started the final round with a three-shot lead and closed with a bogey-free 68. He never shot worse than 68 all week and was the only player in the winners-only field to have all four rounds in the 60s.

It still wasn't enough.







## NFL PLAYOFFS

## Scoreboard

## Playoffs

## Wild-card Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 5  
Indianapolis 21, Houston 7  
Dallas 22, Seattle 22

Sunday, Jan. 6  
L.A. Chargers 23, Baltimore 17  
Philadelphia 16, Chicago 10

## Divisional Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 12  
Indianapolis 31, Kansas City (10:30 p.m., Saturday, CET: 6:30 a.m. Sunday, JKT, APN-Sports)

Dallas at L.A. Rams (2 a.m. Sunday, CET: 10 a.m. Sunday, JKT, APN-Sports)  
Sunday, Jan. 13

Los Angeles Chargers at New England (7 p.m. Sunday, CET: 3 a.m. Monday, JKT, APN-Sports)  
Philadelphia at New Orleans (10:30 p.m. Sunday, CET: 6:30 a.m. Monday, JKT)

## Conference Championships

Sunday, Jan. 20  
AFC  
TBD  
AFC

Pro Bowl  
Sunday, Jan. 27  
At Orlando, Fla.

Super Bowl  
Sunday, Feb. 3  
At Atlanta

AFC champion vs. NFC champion

## Sunday

## Eagles 16, Bears 15

Philadelphia 3 0 7 6-16  
Chicago 9 0 0 9-15

## First Quarter

Phi—FG Elliott 43, 8:32  
Chi—FG Parkey 36, 9:38

## Second Quarter

Chi—FG Parkey 29, 10:30  
Phi—Goedert 10 pass from Foles (Elliott kick), 5:20

## Third Quarter

Chi—FG Parkey 24, 14:13  
Chi—Robinson 22 pass from Trubisky (pass failed), 3:04

## Fourth Quarter

Phi—Tate 2 pass from Foles (run failed), 5:04  
A—62, 4:62

First downs 21 17  
Total Net Yards 300 356  
Rushes-yards 20 18-65

Passing 258 291  
Punt Returns 1-0 0-0  
Comp-Att Returns 0-0 2-0

Comp-Yds Returns 25-22 26-49-0  
Sacked-Yards Lost 1-8 2-12  
Punts 5-45 2 6-40.5

Fumbles-Lost 0-0 0-0  
Penalties-Yards 15-100 18-152  
Time of Possession 30:48 29:12

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Philadelphia: Saquon Barkley 13-21, **Shiloh** 8-20, Adams 1-2, Foles 1-1 (misc.). Chicago: Howard 10-26, Gale 2-14, **Chicago**, Robinson 10-143, Gabriel 4-37, Miller 3-4, Cohen 3-27, Shaheen 3-13, Braunecker 2-15, Bellamy 1-34.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS—Chicago, Parkey 43.

Chargers 23, Ravens 17

L.A. Chargers 23 6 0 3 14-17  
Baltimore 17 0 0 3 14-17

## First Quarter

LAC—FG Badgley 53, 1:08  
BAL—FG Tucker 31, 1:08

## Second Quarter

LAC—FG Badgley 40, 3:22  
BAL—FG Tucker 31, 3:22

## Third Quarter

Bal—FG Tucker 31, 8:30  
LAC—Gordon 1 run (M. Williams pass from Rivers), 14:44

## Fourth Quarter

LAC—FG Badgley 47, 9:09  
Bal—Crawtree 31 pass from L.Jackson (Tucker kick), 6:33

Bal—Crawtree 7 pass from L.Jackson (Tucker kick), 1:59  
A—70, 4:32

First downs 24 23  
Total Net Yards 339 229  
Rushes-yards 33-89 33-110

Passing 154 139  
Punt Returns 0-0 0-0  
Comp-Att Returns 2-7 8 6-106

Comp-Yds Returns 22-30 14-29-1  
Sacked-Yards Lost 1-1 4-2  
Fumbles-Lost 1-1 4-2

Penalties-Yards 5-35 7-41  
Time of Possession 33:40 26:20

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Los Angeles, Gordon 17-40, **Elliott** 11-29, Rivers 3-15, L.Jackson 2-3, Dixon 6-13.

PASSING—Los Angeles, Rivers 23-32, 0-160, **Baltimore**, L.Jackson 14-29-194, **Edwards** 1-1, **Baltimore**, Dixon 3-53, **Snead** 3-50, Andrews 3-31, **Crawtree** 2-53, **2-14**, **Ma**, Williams 1-8.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS—Baltimore, Tucker 50.

## Offenses took wild-card holiday

BY BARRY WILNER

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Maybe it was the absence of all those high-powered offenses on byes.

Perhaps it was the jitters for some younger teams, particularly their quarterbacks: Deshaun Watson, Mitchell Trubisky and Lamar Jackson.

Or maybe defense actually still has a place in the NFL, especially in the playoffs.

The most points anyone scored during wild-card weekend, when only Dallas won at home, was 24 by the Cowboys. In total, 145 points were scored, an average of 36.2 per game. The Chiefs averaged 35.3 all by themselves this season.

As Nick Foles — St. Nick in Philly for his clutch work as a relief pitcher and, oh yes, as a Super Bowl champion — observed following the Eagles' 16-15 comeback escape in Chicago: "Our defense really kept us in this game. It was a hard-fought defensive battle. It was tough and we were able to come up in the end."

Or as coach Anthony Lynn noted following the Chargers' 23-17 win at Baltimore in which Los Angeles forced three turnovers and held the Ravens to 229 total yards, 90 on the ground: "Our defense was outstanding. We held that team down to 100 yards rushing. No one has played that team the way our defense played today. I was really impressed with the way our defense stepped up."

All the winning defenses will need to step up a few more runs next weekend. Consider that aside from the Chiefs scoring 565 points this season, the Rams got 527, the Saints 504 and the Patriots 436. All of them will be at home.

The Colts (11-6) head to Kansas City (12-4) on Saturday, followed by the Cowboys (11-6) at the Rams (13-4). On Sunday, the Chargers (13-4) are at the Patriots (11-5), while the Eagles, who lost 48-7 at the Saints during the season, finish off the divisional round at New Orleans (13-3).

While the NFL loves to tout all the scoring records set during the 2018 season, all of the yards



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

**Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson, right, is sacked by Indianapolis Colts defensive tackle Al-Damir Muhammad during the first half of their wild-card playoff game Saturday in Houston.**

gained and general wide-openness of weekly contests, when it comes down to deciding who winds up in the conference title games, maybe the guys trying to throw those video-game offenses will have a say.

It's unlikely that any of the wild-card victors can win a Super Bowl without being balanced. The Eagles will need to play far better defense in the Big Easy or Drew Brees will have, well, an easy time picking apart a secondary playing mostly backups. The Chargers likely will require more than 24 points to succeed in Foxborough, where the Patriots had the NFL's only unbeaten home record this season.

Dallas needs more offensive imagination and another huge performance against the run to win at L.A. Only Indianapolis, which was superb on both sides of the ball at Houston, displayed enough of the

formula needed to get to the conference championship game.

Then again, the Colts must slow down All-Pro quarterback Patrick Mahomes and crew at Arrowhead Stadium.

"We're not worried about who's on the other side," said Colts rookie linebacker Darius Leonard, himself an All-Pro. "We always talk about whoever's playing on the opposite side is gray matter. So we're always talking about doing what we can do and controlling what we can control, and that is going out, playing each play, play by play and going from there."

What about the four teams coming off byes? Which ones are best suited to come up with a solid defensive showing?

The two most suspect are the Chiefs and Rams. Sure, KC averaged all those points weekly. It also yielded 26.3, including 43, 54, 29 and 38 in its losses, and

the 421 points opponents scored by far were the most any playoff team surrendered. The Rams allowed 384, easily the most of any NFC postseason qualifier. L.A. had seven games in which it allowed at least 30 points.

New England also can be vulnerable on defense even though it's been stingy at times when it comes to giving up touchdowns. The Patriots aren't a force in the pass rush and against quality quarterbacks the linebackers and secondaries have had trouble in coverage.

New Orleans probably has the most well-rounded roster, with some standouts on defense to accompany Brees and All-Pro receiver Michael Thomas and the terrific running back duo of Alvin Kamara and Mark Ingram.

And don't think defense won't be needed through the rest of January and into February.

## Try: Rivers calls matchup with Brady, Patriots 'special'

## FROM BACK PAGE

"That's playoff football right there for you," Tye said. "That's why we play this game, for times like now once you get to January and February."

Next up for Foles and Philadelphia (10-7) is a trip to New Orleans to face Drew Brees and the top-seeded Saints (13-3). The Eagles also visited the Big Easy on Nov. 18 and struggled mightily against Brees and company in a 48-7 loss.

"It wasn't very good the first time," coach Doug Pederson said. "We'll take a look at that film. We'll take a look at this one. I think we're a different football team now than we were then, and you know, we've just got to put a good plan together in all three phases." The Chargers (13-4) visit the Patriots (11-5) in the first divisional playoff game next

Sunday, followed by the Eagles' return to New Orleans. Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts (11-6) take on Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs (12-4) on Saturday, and then Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott lead the Dallas Cowboys (11-6) into Los Angeles to take on Todd Gurley and the Rams (13-3).

Luck threw for 222 yards and a touchdown and Marion McCaskill rushed for 148 yards in the Colts' 21-7 victory at Houston on Saturday. Prescott passed for a TD and ran for another score to help the Cowboys top the Seattle Seahawks 24-22 in their first-round matchup.

"It's really just a chance to keep going on, simple as that," Prescott said. "Me and this whole team, we want to win it all. You can't do that without taking care of the first one. A lot of excitement, but my goal is bigger than just one playoff win."

The 37-year-old Rivers beat New England in 2008, but that was with Matt Cassel starting at quarterback for the Patriots while Brady was injured. Rivers went up against New England for the first time in the playoffs after the 2006 season, tossing an interception in a 24-21 loss to the visiting Patriots.

The star QBs also squared off in the postseason in 2008. Playing with a torn knee ligament, Rivers threw two more picks in a 21-12 loss at New England.

"Obviously, we've got to worry about that defense. It's a Bill Belichick-led team and defense," Rivers said. "I'm not playing Tom by any means. But it is special to go to New England against an Hall of Fame coach and arguably the best quarterback ever to play and get another shot at 'em? Heck, yeah. Heck, yeah, it is special."

## NFL PLAYOFFS

# Chargers top Ravens, earn shot at Patriots

By DAVID GINSBURG  
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Los Angeles Chargers kept Lamar Jackson grounded, and by the time the rookie got the passing game going it was too late for the Baltimore Ravens.

Michael Badgley kicked five field goals, and Los Angeles harassed and hounded Jackson during a 23-17 victory Sunday in the opening round of the NFL playoffs.

The Chargers (13-4) will next face the second-seeded New England Patriots (11-5) on the road Sunday. The Chargers last won two games during a single postseason in 2007, when the franchise was in San Diego.

Of course, going deep in the playoffs are odd bets for the Patriots.

"Yeah, I mean, gosh, we know the run they've had," Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers said. "It seems like forever. They're always in these games and games beyond."

Rivers went 22-for-32 for 160 yards for Los Angeles, providing just enough offense to help the Chargers get even for a 22-10 loss to Baltimore just two weeks ago.

Badgley set a franchise record for field goals in a playoff game. He connected from 21, 53, 40, 34 and 47 yards.

The Chargers built a 23-3 lead in the fourth quarter before Jackson threw two touchdown passes to make it close. Given one final chance to complete the comeback, the 21-year-old looked every bit like the youngest quarterback to start an NFL playoff game when he lost the ball on his third fumble of the game.

Jackson finished 14-for-29 for 194 yards with an interception. He was sacked seven times.

"I wasn't playing my game today. I'm ticked off about that, definitely," Jackson said.

The AFC North champion Ravens (10-7) were making their first playoff appearance since 2014 after Jackson led the team on a 6-1 season-ending run following an injury to long-time starter Joe Flacco.

In the days leading up to the game, Jackson — the 2016 Heisman Trophy winner — was lauded for the job he did to get Baltimore into the postseason. With the former Louisville star leading the way, the Ravens went on a tear by combining a time-consuming ground game with the league's top-ranked defense.

Jackson finished with 54 yards rushing, but he was booed by many in the crowd of 70,432 after the Ravens fell behind by 20 points.

"They were looking for better in us," Jackson said. "We didn't perform well. It happens sometimes."

Jackson threw a 31-yard touchdown pass to Michael Crabtree to make it 23-10 with 6:33 remaining and tossed a 7-yarder to Crabtree with 1:59 left, but Baltimore's last chance ended when Jackson fumbled after being hit by Ucheenna Nwosu.

Baltimore finished with 90 yards rushing after averaging 229.6 with Jackson at the helm.

"We did a good job of staying in the rush lanes and containing him," Chargers coach Anthony Lynn said. "The more times you see that offense, the better you're going to do against it."

The game was not without controversy.

Los Angeles used a 1-yard touchdown run by Melvin Gordon to take a 20-3 lead with 14:44 left. The score came one play after Gordon lost control of the ball at the goal line and the Ravens took it the other



Nick Wass/AP

Chargers running back Melvin Gordon scores a touchdown in the second half of the wild-card game against the Ravens on Sunday in Baltimore. The score came one play after Gordon fumbled at the goal line and the Ravens took it for a touchdown, but he was ruled down by contact and a replay confirmed the call.

way for a touchdown, but he was called down by contact and a replay confirmed the call.

"He had control of the football as he hit the ground," said NFL Senior Vice President of Officiating Al Riveron.

That pretty much ended any hope the Ravens had of winning their first home playoff game since the 2012 season. Baltimore had won five straight in the wild-card round under coach John Harbaugh.

At halftime, Jackson was 2-for-8 for 17 yards and an interception for a 0.0 quarterback rating. Los Angeles led 12-0 at the break, marking the first time in franchise history the Ravens were blanked in the first half of a playoff game.

The Ravens fumbled three times during

their first eight offensive plays, losing the last one by Kenneth Dixon on a tackle by Melvin Ingram at the Baltimore 15 to set up Los Angeles' first field goal.

The Chargers then used a 33-yard punt return by Desmond King to set up a 53-yard field goal for a 6-0 lead.

An interception by Adrian Phillips led to another field goal, and Badgley made it 12-0 on the final play of the first half.

Ingram finished with seven tackles, two sacks, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.

Jackson fumbled on Baltimore's opening possession, but picked it up himself. The same thing happened in the second series before Dixon lost the ball. Jackson has fumbled in nine straight games.

## Rookie Jackson struggles in postseason debut

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Lamar Jackson's passer rating was bottoming out at 0.0, he'd endured a first half with a combined total of fumbles and interceptions (three) that was higher than his number of completions (two), and his playoff debut was shaping up as, in a word, a disaster.

So as Baltimore Ravens coach John Harbaugh stuck with his rookie quarterback, and the team's deficit in an AFC wild-card game against the Los Angeles Chargers grew and grew Sunday, fans near the home team's sideline called for Super Bowl MVP Joe Flacco to get a chance.

That drew the ire of Ravens cornerback Jimmy Smith, who let the spectators know he thought they were making a mistake during what would become Baltimore's 23-17 loss to LA.

"I'm standing there, and they were just like chanting Flacco's name. I love 'Flac,' but [Jackson] got us here. So for the fact that you're a fair-weather fan that quickly turn things go rough — you turn your back on him — that just got under my skin a little



Nick Wass/AP

Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson tries to break free from Chargers free safety Derwin James in the first half on Sunday.

bit," Smith said. "So I just went to them and told them, like, 'Yo, you either ride or die or you get out of here.'"

A day before his 22nd birthday, Jackson became the youngest quarterback to start a postseason game, and aside from getting in gear late, he sure looked like someone not quite ready for the big stage. The Heisman Trophy winner from Louisville went 14-for-29 for 194 yards, two fourth-quarter TDs to make the score

respectable, one pick, one lost fumble and two more fumbles recovered by Baltimore. He was sacked seven times.

Asked about the fans' jeering, Jackson said: "No hard feelings. They're looking for better."

Harbaugh said he considered making a switch to Flacco — "It was part of the conversation. Certainly thought about it. Certainly talked about it," the coach explained — but thought the fact that Jackson produced a pair of

scores late proved that keeping him in the game was the right call.

"Lamar's our quarterback going forward. There's no question about that," Harbaugh said, adding that he expects to return next season, too.

While the Chargers (13-4) advanced to play New England, the AFC North champion Ravens (10-7) had their first trip to the playoffs since 2014 end quickly.

Jackson led them there since replacing Flacco by going 6-1, thanks to a strong running game and the league's No. 2 scoring defense. The sprint to a division title included a 22-10 victory at the Chargers two weeks ago. Rather than a harbinger, that game seemingly provided a scouting report for LA, the first club to face Jackson twice.

In that regular-season win against the Chargers, Jackson threw for a career-high 204 yards and put up a 101.3 rating that was his best in an NFL start.

It was clear from the outset Sunday this was not going to go as well. The Ravens fumbled on three of their first eight plays, two by Jackson and one by Kenneth Dixon. At halftime, Jackson was

2-for-8 for 17 yards passing. The Ravens had 69 total yards and a paltry three first downs.

Baltimore finally scored in the third quarter via Justin Tucker's 33-yard field goal after a 6-yard "drive" — that's how far Jackson took the Ravens after C.J. Mosley's fumble return. There were boos from the crowd of 70,432 after Jackson was stuffed for no gain on third down.

That kick cut Baltimore's deficit to 12-3. After a partial block resulted in an 11-yard punt that gave the Ravens the ball at the LA 40, another get-nowhere possession led to a field-goal attempt by Tucker, this one from 50 yards and the most accurate kicker in NFL history produced his first postseason miss in 10 tries.

The next Ravens drive featured a pair of sacks — and more boos. Flacco remained on the sideline, staring, his helmet on. After the Ravens tallied 23-3, Jackson tossed TD passes to Michael Crabtree from 31 yards with 6½ minutes remaining, and from 7 yards just before the two-minute warning.

"I wasn't playing my game today," Jackson said. "Only to ward the end."



## NFL PLAYOFFS



NAM Y. HUN/AP

Eagles quarterback Nick Foles throws a touchdown pass past Bears outside linebacker Leonard Floyd late in the fourth quarter on Sunday in Chicago. The score lifted the defending Super Bowl champs to a 16-15 victory.

# Foles comes through again

## Eagles hang on to beat Bears after QB's go-ahead TD pass

By ANDREW SELIGMAN  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Philadelphia Eagles were desperately seeking a lift with little time left to save their season.

Nick Foles came through for the defending Super Bowl champions. And he did it just in time.

Foles threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Golden Tate on fourth down in the final minute, and the Eagles hung on for a 16-15 wild-card victory over the Chicago Bears after Cody Parkey's missed field goal hit the upright and crossbar.

After squeezing past the NFC North champions, the Eagles (10-7) will visit top-seeded New Orleans (13-3).

"It's going to be a tall task this week," Foles said. "They had a bye week and they are a tremendous team. They had an amazing season. But you know, I love these guys that I get to play with. I know we're ready for this week."

The Eagles won five of their final six regular-season games. They squeezed into the playoffs by beating Washington and having the Bears (12-5) give them an assist by taking out Minnesota last week.

The Eagles are trying to become the first team to repeat as Super

Bowl champions since New England in 2004. And they're also trying to become the first sixth seed to win the title since Green Bay in the 2010 season. The Packers beat the Bears for the conference championship at Soldier Field that year.

"We have nothing to lose," safety Malcolm Jenkins said. "Nobody expects us to do anything. Everybody counted us out. So you know, what do we have to lose but our dignity and pride?"

Foles came through down the stretch against the NFL's stingiest defense to help the Eagles pull out the tight victory. He completed six passes on a 60-yard drive for the go-ahead TD after Chicago's Pat O'Donnell shanked a punt.

Three plays in the 2nd nowhere, with Kyle Fuller breaking up a third-down pass to Alshon Jeffery near the goal line. But with the season on the line, Foles rolled to his right and Tate reached to grab the go-ahead TD with 56 seconds left.

"He never tries to do too much. He tries to play within himself on every play," tight end Zach Ertz said. "The moment's never too big for him and he just resonates that calm and positive attitude."

Foles is now 7-0 while filling in for Carson Wentz in must-win games the

past two seasons, with a Super Bowl MVP performance against New England last year. And he came through against Chicago when things weren't looking so promising.

"You know, [Foles] just does a great job of just staying in the moment, staying calm and, you know, no panic," Eagles coach Doug Pederson said. "There was no panic on the offense or on the sideline."

Wendell Smallwood's 2-point conversion run failed. But the Eagles hung on when Parkey's 43-yard attempt in the closing seconds hit halfway up the left upright and ricocheted off the crossbar.

That ended a stunning turnaround season for the Bears in their first year under coach Matt Nagy. They won the NFC North after four straight last-place finishes and reached the playoffs for the first time in eight years.

"I see a lot of young talent and a great coaching staff," guard Kyle Long said. "We didn't have any postseason experience — now we have a little bit of it. Now we have a taste of what the stakes are like and we know what it takes to win and we have the pieces to the puzzle to win."

Bears defensive lineman Akiem Hicks said: "This is what we're going to deal with. If you wanted a different result, maybe make a different play."

# Parkey hits upright again on potential winning FG

By ANDREW SELIGMAN  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Cody Parkey sat by his locker with a glazed look, struggling to explain how he did it again.

The Chicago Bears' embattled kicker somehow managed to nail yet another upright and hit the crossbar while missing a 43-yard field goal in the closing seconds of a 16-15 wild-card loss to the defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

"You can't make this up," Parkey said.

It was a cruel and appropriate end to a season in which he managed to hit uprights while missing field goals and extra points six times. This one came at the worst possible moment.

Nick Foles gave Philadelphia a 16-15 lead on a 2-yard touchdown pass to Golden Tate. Tarik Cohen returned the kickoff 35 yards to the 42, and the Bears (12-5) appeared to be in business.

They had third-and-2 at the 25 when Mitchell Trubisky missed Anthony Miller on a deep pass down the middle. With 10 seconds remaining, the Bears turned to Parkey, hoping their kicker could extend their breakthrough season.

He was 11-for-12 on fourth-quarter field goals prior to Sunday. After making three field goals earlier in the game, he sent one right between the uprights with a few feet to spare. But the Eagles called time to ice him so it didn't count.



NAM Y. HUN/AP

Bears kicker Cody Parkey, center, watches as his kick in the final minute of an NFL wild-card game against the Eagles on Sunday hits the upright, allowing Philadelphia to hang on for a 16-15 win.

Parkey then thought he booted a "great ball" on the next attempt. Several Eagles, however, said defensive tackle Treyvon Hester touched it.

The kick hit halfway up the upright and ricocheted off the crossbar, bringing the Bears' breakthrough season to an end.

"There's really no answer to it," Parkey said. "I thought I hit a good ball. Unfortunately, I didn't make it. I feel terrible, 100

percent take that loss on me. It is what it is. Sun is going to shine tomorrow. Life is going to go on. Unfortunately, it's going to sting for a while."

At times this season, it seemed Parkey had as much success hitting uprights as he did converting kicks.

He hit four while missing two field goals and two extra points in a win over Detroit at Soldier Field. He also hit one while miss-

ing an extra point in the regular-season finale at Minnesota.

"I'm going to do everything I can to take the human side of it," coach Matt Nagy said. "I think the easiest way you look at it is that you put yourself in his situation. You think he tried to miss it? No, I know that. But you've got to learn from it. You've got to figure out the why part, and he'll do that, and we need to do that, too."



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## NFL PLAYOFFS

## Try, try again

After knocking off Ravens,  
Rivers aims to end  
7-game skid vs. Brady

By JAY COHEN  
Associated Press

**P**hilip Rivers has come up empty against Tom Brady every time.

He gets another shot next weekend.

Rivers directed the Los Angeles Chargers to a 23-17 playoff victory at Baltimore on Sunday, setting up another high-stakes matchup with Brady and the New England Patriots. For all of Rivers' success during his 15 years in the NFL, he is winless in seven career starts against Brady.

"To get an opportunity again to go against them, 11 years after we had the opportunity in the 2007 season, yeah, it's awesome," Rivers said. "Looking forward to it."

The reigning Super Bowl champions are still in the mix after Nick Foles threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Golden Tate on fourth down with 56 seconds left, sending the Philadelphia Eagles to a 16-15 victory over the NFC North champion Chicago Bears on Sunday.

Cody Parkey had a look at a potential winning field goal for Chicago, but his 43-yard try with 10 seconds remaining went off the left upright and then the crossbar. Parkey bent over after the miss as the Eagles celebrated and Bears coach Matt Nagy looked on in disbelief.

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## Inside:

■ Champion Eagles get past Bears when Parkey hits upright again, Page 31

■ Rookie QB Jackson stumbles for Ravens, Page 30

Quarterback Tom Brady and the New England Patriots will host the Chargers in a divisional playoff game Sunday.

CHARLES KRUPA/AP



Chargers  
quarterback  
Philip Rivers  
GAIL BURTON/AP

Michigan stays perfect with win over Indiana » **Page 26**

